

Dear Committee Members,

I speak as a Wool, Sheep and Cattle producer with 40+ years experience on a family property for the last 92 years. Having spent the last decade trying to improve our terms of “trade” via much needed reforms-I am very familiar with the internal workings of the existing levy collection arrangements in the meat and Livestock sector. Recently I have become a member of EVERY livestock Producer body in this country to try and push through RRAT senate recommendations from some 5yrs ago that are still lapsed.

Just yesterday -I filed a question for a senator of Qld to ask the ANAO on behalf of cattle producers. I realise that there are 17 approx Levies in Ag and that wool and one other are the only ones with an automated data retrieval to give \$’s paid which =votes in AWI governance. Grains and Red meat are by far the largest Ag Industries and collect \$half a B- in levies and taxpayer top up I would have no problem if the red meat/cattle Cattle Transaction Levy(CTL) COULD be automated simply- I realise that this amendment may be a tiny step in getting a registerof Levy payers. Apparently the nationalised NLIS tag system can identify every beast that they own but the Business owners can’t be identified nor the amounts of levies that each contributes per year. It is just grouped up totals sent to the Levies Collection Unit in Canberra -monthly A complete “church plate” manner in which to handle \$160M of consolidated revenue.

While this sloppy situation has been in place for 20 yrs- the alarming fact is that multi national PROCESSORS are the top 3 levy payers -apparently by votes declared for MLA governance. The AA Co – Australia’s largest breeding company was #4 when I had to pay MLA \$500 for the voting register of the MLA/Agm from 2011. I believe that the answers to my ANAO question could well require a complete REFORM of the Beef Levy Act and that Processors will be exited out of the producer Fund as their Grainfed Levies via their own feedlots will be deemed- non compliant with the ACT. There were 2 RRAT inquiries re Levies -2014 brief timeline-

2014

On the 09 September 2014 (some 4 years ago) the senate committee, released a final report regarding “*Industry structures and systems governing levies on grass-fed cattle*”

This report included #07 very clear recommendations for action to address the findings of this inquiry

Amongst these #07 recommendations one was a specific recommendation for the ANAO to carry out an audit of the Cattle Transaction Levy system and the outcome of two other recommendations would have been a beneficiary of that audit or in fact may have required an audit to allow effective implementation

year- backed by Australias largest cattle holding. Just what is THAT telling the discerning investor???

Thankyou,

Rob Moore