

I note that Australian business woman Ms Jan Cameron is planning to head up a consortium to in effect underwrite a bid for Van Diemen's Land Company. Furthermore, another Australian company, TasFoods Ltd submitted a bid for Van Diemen's Land Company which was previously rejected by the current owners of the property.

I understand that the Cameron consortium bid is comparable to the Moon Lake Investments bid, and includes clear plans for the expansion of the Van Diemen's dairy business.

I respectfully suggest that the strength of the Cameron bid be seriously considered by you in the context of weighing up the national interest test. I would be grateful if a meeting with your office and Ms Cameron and her representatives (including the KPMG Mergers and Acquisitions Team from their Sydney office) be arranged as a matter of urgency.

Finally, as a matter of courtesy I can indicate that I am urgently looking into tabling amendments to the Act that would provide a positive obligation upon both the FIRB and your office to consider alternative Australian based bids, including the ability to impose conditions on an Australian based bid in the same way you can impose conditions on a foreign based bid.

I look forward to hearing from you at your very earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

  
**NICK XENOPHON**

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