



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

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Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
Minister for Resources and Northern Australia  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for New England

Ref: MC17-006434

Senator Helen Polley  
Chair  
Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

12 SEP 2017

Dear Senator Polley *Helen*

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 2017, requesting additional advice on the Imported Food Control Amendment Bill 2017 (Bill).

In response to the additional comments provided by the Committee, I intend to table a Replacement Explanatory Memorandum to address some of the comments made.

In relation to the Committee's comments on Item 10 of the bill, to provide further statutory guidance on the exercise of the Secretary's power to extend a holding order, I have decided to amend the Explanatory Memorandum to provide greater clarity on what the review undertaken by the Secretary, under new subsection 15(5), is intended to consider.

As previously advised, the Secretary, when considering a decision to extend a holding order for an additional 28 days, must take into consideration if appropriate testing regimes have been identified or adequate risk management strategies are in place.

The replacement Explanatory Memorandum will also incorporate comments raised by the Committee in relation to new subsections 22(14) and 23(11).

I thank the Committee for their consideration of this Bill to strengthen Australia's imported food regulatory system.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP