

The President of the DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
Mr R B Crawford

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**The Chairperson
The Rural and regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
Parliament house
CANBERRA ACT.**

Dear Sir / Madam

1. I make this submission as the President of the DCBSA after conferring with the Directors of the Board governing the Society of cattle breeders.
2. Our submission revolves around the fact that the Government has publicly announced the commencement of trade (1 March 2010) with Countries prior to establishing suitable protocols to stop any chance of imported beef or meat products carrying the BSE disease.
3. Trade wars can become very messy and dangerous. Once the Australian Beef Industry is exposed to another source of risk (Trade Terrorism) our enthusiasm to compete on the domestic and International is moderated as disadvantaged Countries (previously contaminated) seek redress.
4. Our society notes that the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) will be consulted by (FNANZ). Our Society agrees with this policy however the word "consultation" must be replaced with the word "**comply**".
5. All concerns and protocols advanced by the RMAC must be actuated prior to any relaxation in trade.
6. International trade in accredited genetic material and embryos must be unfettered in addition any increase in trade of meat and meat products.

Conclusion:

Prior to any announcement in relaxed trading conditions the Federal Government and its Minister should ensure that exporting countries be required to;

1. comply with international rules regarding removal of specified risk materials, age of cattle, etc
2. provide guaranteed "equivalency of outcomes" in respect of cattle traceability, and
3. accept Australia's right for in – country inspection as part of a rigorous science based risk assessment.

Yours faithfully,
Robert Bryce Crawford
President of the Devon Cattle Breeders Society of Australia.