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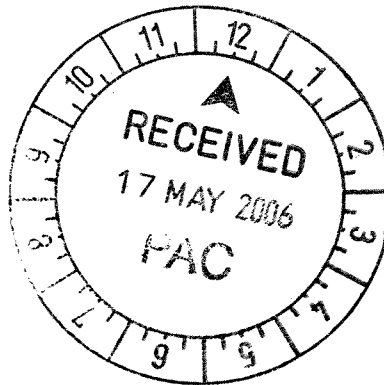
John carter

From: "John carter" <jcarter36@bigpond.com>
 To: <pac@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
 Sent: Tuesday, 16 May 2006 2:55 PM
 Subject: AJA Submission to Inquiry into Managing Animal and Plant Diseases.

Lake Edward,
 Crookwell
 NSW 2583

16 May 2006

The Committee Manager,
 Public Accounts Committee
 Parliament House
 Macquarie St.
 SYDNEY NSW 2000
pac@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Dear Ms. Buchbach,

I write to make input into your committee's inquiry into Managing Animal and Plant Diseases.

I represent the Australian Johnes Alliance in NSW. Through our affiliate bodies we have over 7,000 members across Australia. Our committee includes some of the leading figures in the Sheep, dairy and beef cattle industries.

We were formed to fight the Johnes's Disease programs being enforced across Australia since 1996.

The Ovine and Bovine Johnes's Disease Programs have been a disaster, not only for the farmers concerned, but for its very destructive impact on the relationship between the farming community and the Government Agencies. If a serious disease outbreak occurred, many producers would not co-operate or report sick stock as they have witnessed the financial and psychological persecution of fellow producers caught in the Johnes's programs.

The Johnes's Program failed because the basic elements of any mandatory disease control/eradication program were not followed.

1. No accurate test.
2. No surveys to establish the extent of Johnes's not only in NSW but all states.
3. No cost benefit studies which looked at the economic and social impact of the policies.
4. The failure to acknowledge the relationship of the Johnes's Mycro-bacteria with the environment – soil type and intensive grazing management.
5. The failure to acknowledge cross infection between Avium, Ovine and Bovine strains of Johnes's Disease.
6. The failure to acknowledge BJD is endemic to the world dairy industry and in certain environments OJD is endemic also.

When a disease is endemic you manage the disease- you don't try to eradicate it.

The Australian Johnes's Alliance Policy has always been to encourage and reward NSW Agriculture and other State authorities and Animal Health Australia's Policy has been to penalize and destroy those businesses unfortunate to test with a positive animal as little or no meaningful compensation is available.

The Way Forward

16/05/2006

1. Government should ---

- a) Move Johne's into the same category as Leptospirosis, hydatids etc. as notifiable diseases and remove all trade restrictions and zones. This would decriminalize the disease.
- b) Support the quick introduction of a BJD vaccine – for Dairy and Beef producers
- c) Offer a cash incentive or rebate on the vaccine for sheep and cattle
- d) Remove the Johne's Market Assurance Program (MAP). It continues to destroy studs – sheep, dairy, and beef, as no meaningful compensation is available and has proven to be useless as a safeguard for those purchasers who are obsessed with Johne's Disease.

Our proposal will bring sanity into the disastrous Johne's program and help re-build the bridge between producers and Government Agencies, which is necessary should an exotic Disease outbreak occur. We are happy to give detailed evidence at any hearing as we have done enormous homework on the disease worldwide and have hundreds of disaster stories from victimised Australian producers—including many in NSW.

Yours sincerely,



John Carter
Director Australian Johne's Alliance (AJA)

16/05/2006