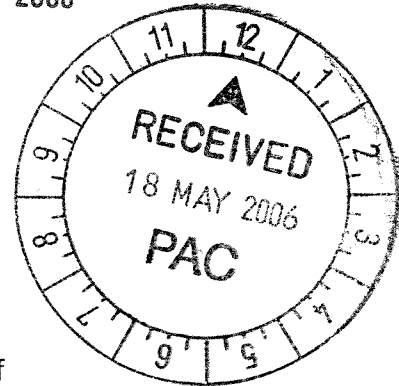


Ref: CEO00576/06

Ms Vicki Buchbach  
Committee Manager  
Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

17 MAY 2006



Dear Ms Buchbach

I refer to the Committee's letter requesting submissions for the follow-up of recommendations made by the Auditor General after performance audits involving Managing Animal Disease Emergencies and Implementing the Ovine Johne's Disease Program.

The terms of reference for the Inquiry have limited impact on the jurisdiction of WorkCover. Premises that are places of work are bound by the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*. There are no exemptions from this legislation and employers have a responsibility to assess and control health risks arising from the exposure to animal and plant diseases. This is usually achieved by the development and implementation of appropriate workplace policies and procedures to prevent or limit potential exposure to diseases.

WorkCover will continue to fulfil its obligations in raising awareness of and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the workplace safety legislation. Where requested, WorkCover is available to work in partnership with industry and assist employers in the adoption of safe work methods.

Where appropriate WorkCover will liaise with the Department of Primary Industries, which administers the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* and the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991*, and emergency services coordinated under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*.

I trust that this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Jon Blackwell  
Chief Executive Officer

WorkCover. **Watching out for you.**