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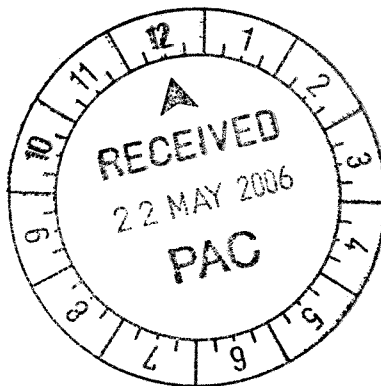
john carter

From: "john carter" <jcarter36@bigpond.com>
To: <vicki.buchbach@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "Linda Hewitt" <lehewitt@bigpond.com>; "Lee mcnicoll" <mcnicoll@bigpond.com>; "Brad Bellinger" <bbellinger@NSW.chariot.net.au>
Sent: Sunday, 21 May 2006 9:47 PM
Subject: Submission from Australian Beef Association

Lake Edward,
Crookwell
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21 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 further input into your committee's inquiry into Managing Animal and Plant Diseases.

I am a Director of The Australian Beef Association, which has been very concerned for four years at the reckless introduction of National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). This RFID scheme is replacing the tail tag/ National Vendor Declaration Scheme which has been the most successful mandatory trace-back system in the world for over 20 years. Trials of RFID ID have failed in Europe and what is being attempted in Australia has not been shown to work in practice anywhere in the world.

A number of our members have investigated their MLA database accounts and found huge variations between what is on the database and what actually happened to the stock. My first sale saw only 75 % of a 61 head consignment, to a leading sale yard, reach the data base. Cattle that went to both feedlots and abattoirs are still to be recorded on the database three months after their sale. This situation is very common.

Our concern, which is shared by many livestock agents, is that if the tail tag is abandoned, there will be no trace-ability for a large percentage of the cattle sold. We submit to your committee that a continuation of decisions to abandon the tail tag will put at risk the quick isolation of any Animal Disease outbreak. We are happy to provide individual cases of massive errors to support our case.

Yours Sincerely

John Carter, Director for Kosciusko, Australian Beef Association.

22/05/2006