

**Submission
No 36**

INQUIRY INTO ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE IN NSW

Organisation: Richmond River Beef Producers Association
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Richmond River Beef Producers Assoc.
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This committee represents small beef producers from the Kyogle/Lismore region of NSW. The association meets on a monthly basis at the Kyogle Bowling Club to discuss issues relevant to the Beef industry. Following a recent meeting it was decided that the following issues should be presented to "The Inquiry into Aspects of Agriculture in NSW."

- 1) A Legistated Grading System for meat should be instituted Australia wide. The would allow The meat buying customer to access a standard on a regular basis no matter where the purchase took place ie local butcher/supermarket etc.
- 2) With regards to the NILS ear tags for cattle ,
 - a) How accurate and traceable is the system
 - b) What are the results to date
 - c) Who have been the beneficiaries
- 3) We would like the enquiry to look at the M.L.A Voting System. At present the number of Votes a producer is entitled to is in direct relationship to the number of cattle sold in a 12 Month period. This obviously discriminates against the small producer and as a result many small producers do not belong to M.L.A
- 4) The problem of ticks in Northern NSW. In 2005 an enquiry was held under the guidance of the Hon Gary West. As a result of this enquiry we understand a Cattle Tick Industry Advisory Committee (CTIAC) was to be set up. Our association would like to know
 - a) Has this committee been established.
 - b) Who is the Chairman and who are the members of the CTIAC?

The problem with ticks seems to have become wide spread since the West inquiry. We have identified multiple outbreaks in our region and as far south as Kempsey, the Hunter River and Rowlands Plains.
- 5) Another problem with cattle in the North Eastern region is that of Buffalo Fly. This fly attacks cattle between December and May/June each year requiring producers to spray, insert ear tags or inserting back rubbers. We would like your committee to be

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- a) Advised of the problem
 - b) What control measures would your Government be prepared to introduce before this problem becomes more widespread through NSW
- 6) Rapid increase in rural land values. As your Committee would be aware rural land values Over the past few years have escalated This has put undue pressure on young farmers trying to enter the industry or for established farmers trying to increase their landholding. Our committee sees this as a major problem confronting the rural industry. Does your Committee have any solutions for this major problem?

Thanking you in anticipation and should your Committee require further information please feel free to contact us at the above address.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ian Fielding MBBS FRACS FRCS