

27 February 2020

Mr. Andrew Henderson
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Via email – safemeat@agriculture.gov.au

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Dear Andrew,

RE: Reform recommendations for Australia's livestock traceability system

Thank you for taking a leadership role in modernising Australia's livestock traceability system through national harmonisation and digitalisation. Australian Dairy Farmers, the peak body representing Australia's 5,200 dairy farmers, has long advocated these objectives to streamline regulatory processes and enhance biosecurity protection for our industry. This work is starting to make these outcomes real.

Australian Dairy Farmers has considered the five recommendations for reforming Australia's livestock traceability system. All recommendations are supported in principle only with full support pending outcomes of the proposed Regulatory Impact Statement (recommendation five). This should be applied to the other four recommendations with analysis of different options. It is important that this is considered by industry prior to lodgement with the Agriculture Ministers Forum (AGMIN).

Establishment of a new national body (recommendation one) would assist in harmonising species and jurisdictional disparities. Set up and ongoing costs and potential bureaucratic burden require further explanation.

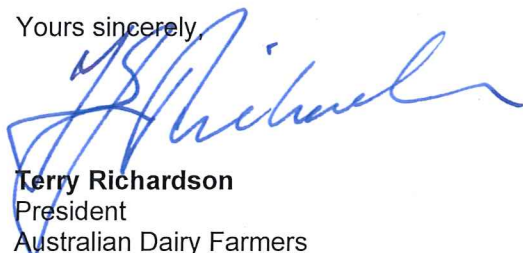
Investment into upgrading Australia's information technology system (recommendation two) to handle all species is welcomed. However, the extent of this upgrade and fund sources (new versus existing) need explanation.

Mandating electronic identification for all animals (recommendation three) is a concern for dairy farmers in Tasmania. Effective and low-cost traceability is currently achieved through the slaughter tag system for bobby calves directly consigned from farm to one abattoir in Tasmania. Assurance of equal ease and value needs to be proven.

The proposal for industry to fund 20 per cent and state/federal government to fund 80 per cent of the modernised system (recommendation four) is welcomed. What this amount looks like and the split across industries requires further explanation.

Thank you for providing the feedback opportunity. We look forward to continuing to progress this important reform agenda through our Safemeat partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Terry Richardson
President
Australian Dairy Farmers