

Select Committee on Australia's Food Processing Sector

Submission from – **Robert Danieli**
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BACKGROUND

D & M Stockfeeds has been manufacturing stockfeed in the Goulburn Valley since 1995. Our main customer base is dairyfarmers who produce milk that helps feed Australia and many overseas countries.

I believe Australia's food sector is at risk from a number of areas and these need to be addressed by Government to ensure a better future for all Australians.

1. Bio-security

I believed Australia had excellent bio-security standards to help protect our agricultural industries from foreign pests and diseases that are not already present within Australia.

The recent importation of apples from New Zealand, and the real risk of importing the disease fire blight, shows that our federal government does not value bio-security issues and is prepared to compromise Australian businesses in favour of a free trade argument.

This issue needs to be revisited so that we can re-protect our industries and our own food security.

2. Anti-dumping

There is a real risk that European countries will export food at a cost lower than the cost of production especially if we have more financial issues develop.

Asian and other countries that have very cheap labour input costs and cheaper processing costs are also a risk to our industries that pay Australian award payments and follow all other protocols associated with good, safe work and manufacturing practices.

3. Input costs

Energy and water are two issues I would like to touch on. Australia wishes to lead the world in the race to low pollution energy production and reducing the amount of water used in agricultural production. These ideologies are detrimental to the profitable production of food and food processing.

The construction of more dams in Australia needs to be considered as it would achieve multiple benefits of having the capacity to generate clean hydro power and provide more water for our growing population and for food production.

4. Other Issues

I would be happy to discuss the above issues, and other concerns, in person if required.