The Chair,

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Reference Committee,

Re: Call for submission on the National Interest Test as applied to purchases of Australian agricultural Land

Sir/Madam

I respectively submit that the major focus on any assessment of the National Interest of purchase of Australian agricultural land by any foreign group or individual should:

A Assess the impact of the price of produce produced by that particular agricultural parcel of land on the domestic market if:

(i) the totality, or of a significant percentage, of its production is exported to the country of origin of the foreign investor and

(ii) access, by the domestic market, to that produce is restricted in any manner.

B Price impact on projected falls in agricultural productivity.

C Assess the impact on local employment by any change of ownership especially in the case where foreign workers may be bought into the country under any temporary worker migration scheme.

D Assess the impact on the environment of any changes in land usage management that may be introduced.

E Assess the impact on the domestic economy if the raw produce is exported and then processed in terms of value adding for re-export to the Australian domestic consumer market.

F Its impact on the economic viability of the domestic value adding processes.

G Impact of any and all changes in land usage i.e., changes from agriculture to mining.

H Impact on commonwealth revenue.

I Assess the ability for Australian investors to access the third party countries land.

J The degree by which any foreign Government has a controlling interest over the potential investor and the subsequent degree by which it may be able to control the ultimate land usage.

K Both long and short term impacts on food security.

L Impact on agricultural produce export earnings in the context of B – D – G and J above.

Yours Faithfully,

Robert Maher