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Meat Council

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Queensland Inc.

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Pioneer Valley Water
Co-operative Limited

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Burdekin River
Irrigators Association

Emerging Primary
Industries Groups

- Biological Farmers
of Australia
- Queensland
Aquaculture
Industries
Federation

21 August 2009

Rob Setter

Associate Director-General

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

GPO Box 46

Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Setter,

Please find attached a submission from the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) in response to the Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries review of Pest Animal Barrier Fences.

Through our membership the QFF represents the interests of 14,000 farmers in the intensive agriculture industry in Queensland. Agriculture contributes over \$13 billion to the Queensland economy and employs over 60,000 people.

Queensland's agricultural regions currently incur substantial financial losses due to the impacts of pest animals on livestock and cropping operations. Wild dogs, rabbits, kangaroos, feral pigs and foxes are primarily responsible for these losses. These species have significant impacts on both agricultural production and the environment.

State and local Government pest animal control processes can be better improved by closer cooperation between Government agencies, QFF supports the Queensland Government commissioning this review. The three main pest animal barrier fences have different governance and funding arrangements and the continuing costs of maintaining barrier fences are creating inefficiencies and deterioration of the fences to a condition which renders them ineffective in many areas of the State.

QFF considers it is imperative that these fences are maintained to aid the protection of not only livestock production areas in Queensland against wild dogs, but also protecting all lands against other pests including rabbits and the damage they inflict on pastures, crops and ecosystems in general.

The solutions to these issues are all resource based. Inadequate funding of the current boards leads to deterioration of physical barriers, reduction of border security and regional staffing levels. QFF supports the recommendation that in determining future management arrangements for Queensland's three barrier fences that these management bodies be replaced by a single body.

However QFF maintains the view that there exists a vast level of knowledge of barrier fence issues across the farming community. Any new governance arrangements must still find implementation capacity to take account of local management knowledge to consider maintenance and performance needs of the barriers in questions. There is obviously a need for industry and Government to work together and smarter to deliver efficient solutions to these problems.

QFF appreciates the opportunity to provide input into this review and our organisation would be willing to provide further information to the review if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Galligan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Galligan
Chief Executive Officer

