



President: Jodie Redcliffe

BRISBANE



Submission No. 140

Chair: Mike Rozen

BRISBANE

To:

Mr Glen Butcher  
Member for Gladstone  
Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair

**RE: Public Inquiry into *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.**

**Specifically: Amendment to section 134 & 135A of the Biosecurity Act 2014 (reclassification of aviary birds).**

Dear Mr Butcher,

The Queensland Chicken Meat Council (QCMC) and Queensland Chicken Growers Association (QCGA) collectively represent the entire contract chicken meat industry in Queensland. Based on figures published in the 2016 QDAF Industry Supply Chain Report, in 2011 the chicken meat industry was worth approximately \$1.16 billion to the Queensland economy and directly employed over 3000 people. Given that the industry experiences a growth rate of 4% per annum, our industry contributes significantly to the state of Queensland each year.

It has come to our attention that in an effort to cut red tape and regulatory burden there has been an amendment to the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. This amendment removes the requirement for entities with more than 100 captive birds to be registered as a biosecurity entity, provided that neither the meat nor eggs are used for human consumption, and the birds are not free to fly. The industry has concerns about this amendment.

Firstly, we would like to express some concern that this particular amendment was not raised directly with industry given the potentially disastrous impacts for chicken meat production in Queensland should there be an avian biosecurity incursion. As far as the industry is concerned, it is imperative that we have a clear understanding of where all avian species are kept. While industry understands that it is not feasible for all bird keepers to be register, a threshold of 100 birds presents too higher risk.

Secondly, while the industry is strong in terms of growth it can be extremely vulnerable to disease, as is evidenced by the 2015 American outbreak of the H5N2 strain of avian influenza in commercial poultry flocks. Additionally, the outbreak that impacted the egg industry in Young NSW in 2013 is a cautionary example of how migratory bird populations can pose a risk to large primary production

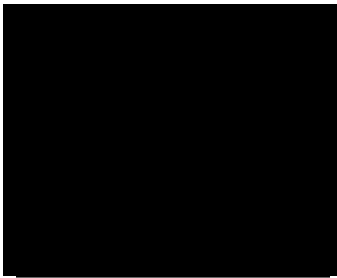
systems, even with disease management systems in place. In our opinion, removing the requirement for registrations for persons who keep more than 100 birds that are not used for human consumption or produce eggs for human consumption regardless of whether they are released for free flight or not, presents too high a potential biosecurity risk to our industry.

Given the level of avian diseases present in other countries, and the fact that Australia prides itself on being relatively disease free, increasing the risk to the industry in the name of 'reducing red tape' is ill conceived and poorly thought out, we would ask that the committee reconsider the amendment.

Lastly, we would ask that a representative from our industry be invited to give evidence at the public hearing on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> 2016.

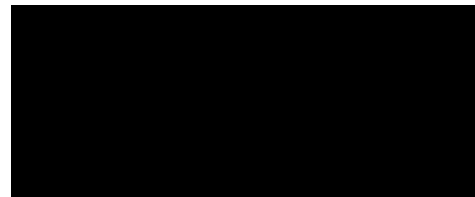
Regards,

Mike Rozen



Chair, QCMC

Jodie Redcliffe



President, QCGA