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Head Office:

2 September 2003

The Presiding Commissioner
National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Frameworks Inquiry
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Professor Woods,

Australia Meat Holdings Pty Limited (AMH) has made a written submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into *National Workers' Compensation and Occupational Health & Safety Frameworks*.

In Queensland, AMH is a self insurer for the purposes of workers compensation insurance, whilst in other states we operate under different arrangements.

We have stated in our submission that we are vehemently opposed to the Commonwealth establishing a national workers' compensation scheme unless the federal scheme adopts the Queensland legislation. Queensland employers would be disadvantaged if forced into a scheme which is like that of any other jurisdiction in Australia.

AMH is a member of the Queensland Workers' Compensation Self Insurers' Association (QWCSIA), which has opted not to make a submission to the Inquiry. However the QWCSIA is a member of the National Council of Self Insurers (NCSI), which has made a submission to the Inquiry at the Public Hearings held in Adelaide. The NCSI submission was made by its chairperson, Mr Darryl Turner, who stated his submissions were also on behalf of the Self Insurers Association of South Australia.

Mr Turner's verbal submission supports a national workers' compensation scheme and through his position as Chair of the National Council of Self Insurers implies that all self insurers support a national scheme. This is not the case. In fact, one of the reasons that the QWCSIA did not make a submission to the Inquiry was that there are mixed views on this subject amongst its members.

The view espoused by the NCSI was submitted to the Inquiry without surveying the opinions of self-insurers. Mr Turner, in his submission to the public hearing of the Inquiry, stated that such a survey would be conducted. To date, Queensland self-insurers have not seen this survey.

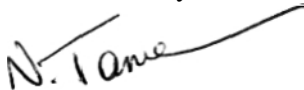
AMH seeks to bring these facts to your attention. We also wish to make a statement of fact that not all self-insurers are in favour of a national workers compensation scheme.

We note that during the public hearings on the Inquiry, you asked Mr Turner to make the NCSI's detailed submission by the end of July "at the outside". The QWCSIA is now seeking an explanation from the NCSI as to why the survey of all self-insurers has not yet been conducted. The QWCSIA has been informed verbally by the national body that the Inquiry has granted an extension for the lodgement of the submission.

AMH would appreciate your advice regarding the details of such an extension.

We trust that you will appreciate how importantly AMH views this issue and we seek your serious consideration of the matters contained in this letter.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Tame", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Neville Tame
Group Manager Human Resources