



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION

18 November 2009

Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 7186
Canberra ACT 2610

**Re: Proposal P1005 Primary Production and Processing Standard for Meat and Meat Products
1st Assessment Report**

Please accept this letter as the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Associations' (TFGA) submission to Foods Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) for the 1st Assessment Report regarding primary production and processing standards for meat and meat products.


The TFGA understands that this is the first of a series of consultation activities that the TFGA will be able to participate in for the purpose of developing national standards for meat and meat products.

The TFGA via this submission wishes to support proposed Option 2 (Through-chain food safety management consisting of non-regulatory and regulatory elements). Support of Option 2 is based largely on the following points:

- Option 2 is the preferable option as it maintains the current systems as well as supporting the development and implementation of educational programs
- Option 3 is not a desirable outcome due largely to the associated costs that would be passed on to producers
- As outlined in the FSANZ evaluation, there are no unmanaged food safety risks for the major meat sectors, and no significant gaps that warrant further chemical or microbiological risk assessments
- The implementation of existing state and territory meat safety requirements through a national outcome based standard would alleviate the issues associated with regional variation
- Given the preventative nature of the current food safety framework, continuation of current management practices will ensure that the meat industry continues to maintain a high standard of public health and safety
- The TFGA strongly supports the collaboration between industry and government to develop educational programs

The TFGA believes that food safety is an exceptionally important issue for agricultural production in Tasmania. Consequently, we look forward to working collaboratively with FSANZ to develop an appropriate standard for the production and processing of meat and meat products in Australia.

Yours Sincerely,


Chris Oldfield
Chief Executive Officer