

From: [Emma White](#)
To: [Legislation Committee](#)
Cc: [David Stoaie](#)
Subject: Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association Submission: Agricultural Produce Commission Bill 2019
Date: Friday, 17 July 2020 1:51:20 PM
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association (KPCA) to provide comments in relation to the Agricultural Produce Commission Bill 2019 (APC Bill).

In short, it is not possible for the KPCA to provide definitive comments/a position on the APC Bill due to there being a lack of clarity post the August 2019 debate in Parliament on the exclusion of pastoralism by Regulation. The pertinent Hansard extract is included at the bottom of this email.

In short, for the KPCA to form a position/consult with its members – we would need clarity regarding the definition of pastoralism to be incorporated and the wording of such an exclusion by Regulation relative to the removal of the broadacre cropping and grazing exemption in the APC Bill (section 4. (2)).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Emma.

Emma White
CEO

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 13 August 2019

C823. Hon Robin Scott to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

Last week the Minister outlined changes to support Producers Committees under the Agricultural Produce Commission Act. I ask:

1. The Minister claimed that she got industry input into this policy. WAFarmers do not represent the pastoral industry in WA. Who did the Government consult outside of WAFarmers before announcing these changes?
2. Pastoralists already pay a substantial levy to Meat and Livestock Australia for marketing and research purposes. Won't the new producers committee functions simply be a double up of those existing functions?
3. When the Minister appoints the Agriculture Produce Commission, and the producer committees answer to that body, is the producer committee truly able to effectively advocate for pastoralists, or is this a case of the foxes watching the hen house?

Answer

I thank the member for the question.

(1)–(3) This will be a complex structure of legislation, but I make it clear that it has never been the government's intention to include pastoralism in this process. The government is well aware of the position of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, not that it necessarily represents the majority of pastoralists, but we are quite clear that there has not been any expression of interest from that sector to be included in this. We are proposing the removal of an exemption. The next step will be the description, under a regulation, of the industry that potentially will be the subject of a producers committee. I give the member a firm commitment that pastoralism will be excluded from the definition in the regulations so that that does not even come within the four corners. After we have put in broadacre cropping and associated livestock in the farming areas, a producer will then have to approach the commission and say, "We want to do this." It then will have to go out to a vote of all those producers, and the majority of producers will have to vote in favour of it before a committee is established. That committee elected by the members will then go through a further process to determine whether it will include a levy. But it has not been the government's intention at all to include pastoralism in that. I am happy to give the member a commitment that the regulation will be phrased in such a way to exclude pastoralism.