

Pan Defrenne Family Trust

Trading as

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Hello Tracey

**SUBMISSION ON
Agricultural Commission Amendment Bill 2019**

I am a member of the APC Beekeeper Producer Committee (APC/BPC) and have been a member for 6 years.

SECTIONS 1 TO 11D

These sections do not currently affect the APC/BPC committee. While not affected by these sections I fully support the ability of other agricultural industries to form committees if it is the wish of the industry. It does provide a mechanism for carry out the functions the committee chooses to adopt. I would recommend each committee adopts all functions even though they may not be used. It is a dynamic world.

POLLING

While polling for new committees is done by the industry to establish them it is a two edged sword for the future.

For ongoing committees, it is the committee that makes the recommendation to the Commissioners for appointment. If a committee has the votes, they have the ability to appoint "like minded" committee members which when appointed may not be in the best interests of the industry and may not allow the industry to have a diversity of opinion.

Weighted votes do have some merit as the persons most affected do have more influence and decisions may have greater affect them in the future. As with all things , it has to be used wisely.

While democracy has its positive points "51% of the population cannot have the right to dismiss the other 49% of the population".

SECTION 11E

The inclusion of non-producers is an excellent reform. While producers know certain parts of their industry they may not have the expertise to manage all the functions of the committee. The inclusion of Non-producers may enable committees to manage their affairs without

contracting functions to outside organizations. This is of particular use with the APC's with larger revenue and are fully involved in carrying out all the chosen functions.

One point of consideration, most APC committee members really do the APC work on a voluntary basis. Yes, there is a sitting fee paid to members, but if the members are very active, it is a very poor hourly rate. The producer members are primarily interested in promoting and supporting their respective industries so it is not real concern.

Non-producers may need some "motivation". Frequently this "motivation" is in the form of payment. A sitting fee for just half a day or fully day of the meeting may not attract sufficient expertise which is the aim of including this section. Have a differentiation in sitting fees would also have its problems.

SECTION 13

This just adds clarity

(1) In section 12(1): 17 (a) delete "in relation to which it is established —" and 18 insert: for which the producers' committee has 21 responsibility —

This is a great improvement, there is much more to having a successful operation other than production. This may improve the industry.

*(b) in paragraph (d) delete "relating to the production of" 24
And insert:
that, in the opinion of the producers' committee, may be 27 of advantage to producers
of the*

This can greatly help in improving an industry because production and promotion are vital components for an industry.

*(c) in paragraph (k) before "promotion" insert:

production,*

This expands and clarifies where compensation can be paid for the greater good of the industry.

*(d) in paragraph (la) before "action" insert:

a pest or disease of that produce or*

Just deleting a Z and replacing it with S , spelling change.

*(e) in paragraph (m) delete "organization or in conjunction with the Commission or any other person or organization." and insert:
organisation or in conjunction with the Commission or 14 any other person or
organisation*

Committees do not currently employ anyone. Any “employees” employed by the committees to work for them are actually employed by the commission and are on secondment to the committee. Just clarifies matters

(2) *Delete section 12(2).*

Provides greater clarification as to what the committees can do.

(3) In section 12(3):

(a) delete “shall” and insert:

must

(b) delete “for which the producers’ committee was established” and insert:

(c) the producers’ committee is authorised to provide

This will enable greater consultation with the various industries by the committees.

(4) *After section 12(4)*

(5) *insert: (5) A producers’ committee may, for the purposes of providing services in relation to agricultural produce —*

(a) *communicate, consult or liaise with producers of agricultural produce; and*

(b) *hold meetings with producers of agricultural 2 produce.*

Not relevant to the bee industry

14. Section 12A amended

I fail to understand what a “prescribed person is. It does not make sense.

While not wanting to necessarily increase penalties, the \$1 000 penalty probably has not changed since 1983 or 2000. The value of the dollars has greatly decreased since then.

Section 13 amended

(1) *Before section (1) insert: (1A) In this section — prescribed person means a person prescribed for the purposes of this definition.*

(2) *In section 13(1) delete “producer require the producer to furnish 2 in writing in the form of” and insert: producer, or a prescribed person, require the producer or 5 prescribed person to furnish in writing in (3)*

Delete section 13(2) and insert:

(2) *A person must not without reasonable excuse fail to comply with a requirement in a notice under this section.*

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of \$1 000.

This concludes my submission

I can be contacted on the above

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Defrenne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Geoff Defrenne