

**Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee : Chicken Meat Industry Amendment Bill 2011**

Submissions 1 – 2, tabled paper reference 5312T6234

[001 – Queensland Chicken Growers Association](#)

[002 – John Merlehan](#)

# QUEENSLAND CHICKEN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



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9<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The Research Director  
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Emailed to: [earec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:earec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of the Chicken Meat Industry Amendment Bill 2011 being conducted by the Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee (EAREC) of the Queensland Parliament.

The Queensland Chicken Growers Association (QCGA) is the peak body representing Queensland's meat chicken farmers, working on behalf of our members to secure a sustainable future within our social, economic and political environment. Our industry is a significant contributor to the Queensland economy, with a gross value of production of more than \$370 million, growing at the rate of approximately 4% per year.

We would like to clearly state our support for the legislation as it stands, and whilst we acknowledge that the amendment bill gives effect to a recommendation arising out of the 2009 independent review of Queensland Government boards, committees and statutory authorities (the Weller review), we feel that it is unfortunate that that review chose to recommend abolition of the Chicken Meat Industry Committee (CMIC) as a statutory body.

We support the functions of the CMIC and see its replacement by an industry-owned non-statutory entity as a complex solution that would be detrimental to the way we do business. It is unwieldy, and not in the best interests of either growers or processors in the chicken meat industry.

The CMIC is currently seen as a neutral party by the industry, given its statutory nature. This perceived neutrality and government oversight contributes to the stability of the industry in general, and the negotiating arena for both growers and processors in particular. The QCGA believes that it is well-recognised that there is a significant imbalance in the relationship between processors and growers, it particular with regard to fee and contract negotiations. It is highly unlikely that growers would see an industry body over sighting the current functions of the CMIC as having sufficient neutrality to provide confidence in the process.

The committee at present is entirely funded by industry therefore there are minimal real costs to government. The current funding is derived from the annual registration of contracts, with growers paying 50% and processors the other 50%.

A vital function of the CMIC is the role of providing information to the Minister about industry issues. Under the Act the independent chair has the opportunity to brief the Minister on issues that are affecting the industry as a whole or those which are confined to the grower or processor sector. As a non-statutory entity, that would no longer be the case.

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If government chooses to amend the CMIC Act to follow the Weller recommendations then the implementation would be problematic for the reasons outlined above. In addition, it would require the willingness of industry participants to take on the added corporate responsibility of an industry-run company, with appropriately drafted and authorised operating procedures, that would need to be endorsed by government. There would of course need to be an appropriate, probably lengthy, transition period.

In conclusion, the Queensland Chicken Growers Association does not support the recommendation of the Weller review that the CMIC statutory body (that is, the committee) should be abolished and replaced by an industry-run company.

We will continue to work closely with Queensland government to ensure the industry is able to address the challenges of this review process.

We thank you for considering this submission and would welcome the opportunity to provide further contribution if requested.

Yours sincerely,



Jodie Redcliffe  
President

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Harrisville, Queensland, Australia

December 2011

Attention : The Environment, Agriculture Resources and Energy committee

To whom it may concern

I declare to the committee that I am a Sovereign elector in the Commonwealth of Australia and the Executive governments operating in Australia do not have my consent.

I would like to put forward the following comments in support of preserving the current CMIC. I am a chicken farmer in Queensland and a member of the Chicken growers association. I support the Queensland Chicken Growers Association with respect to this issue which I understand is to maintain the CMIC act in its current form.

The act was originally established to produce a stable and efficient industry. A successful industry with exceptional vertical efficiencies has been produced. The unique nature of the chicken industry has allowed it to achieve efficiencies that flow through to the consumer. This has occurred by design, through vertical integration under statutory guidance. The CMIC act maintains these efficiencies. The vertical trust like nature of the industry integrators and industry retailers place chicken growers an inequitable position. The current CMIC act allows a very practical and efficient way for negotiations to occur between the many chicken growers and the integrators. This has allowed a more equitable position to be achieved over time.

The removal of the CMIC and other statutory authorities is part of a broad agenda, alien to Australia. The members of this committee may not be aware that the destruction and rearrangement of statutory authorities and local

government in Australia removes the barriers to centralised Executive Government in Queensland under international directive.

The current and previous executive governments in Queensland are acting outside the implied consent of the people of Queensland. This specifically relates to the arbitrary nature with which fundamental aspects of law as it applies to Queensland are being tampered with by the executive. This is being done through covert means via an executive imperative to outsource their decision's to independent inquiries that are under the constraint of private foreign interests neither authorised nor consented to by the people of the Commonwealth inter alia the Crown.

The Executive Government, whilst operating without legitimacy, maintains the illusion that government is operating in accordance with the bounds of common law and due process by using the veneer of the sovereign parliament. The policies and pernicious influences of private supranational and multinational organisations that are counter to the interests of the Crown inter alia the People of Queensland are then implemented. It is important for servants of the people acting under this unlawful authority not to be complicit with executive directives as this places them outside of their prerogative.

The legislature has become an arm of the executive government through the members of the parliament placing their personal allegiance to the executive above the oath of office. This is parlous position.

On this basis alone the government has removed its legitimacy to act on this or any issue. We are a Sovereign State under the Commonwealth of Australia not the image of a regional directorate of a UN central bureau.

We have a responsibility in Australia as world leaders and as an agricultural island nation with natural quarantine barriers, to conduct a strong, diverse, broadly based agricultural sector. The chicken industry is central to this paradigm. We will help feed the world in times of need. **We will be restocking the world should something go wrong. If you think this is not plausible, think again, we are already doing this with bees.**

The world needs a stable chicken industry in Queensland. This is not the time to destabilise the industry with irresponsible short sightedness.

In conclusion, the purpose of governments is to govern on behalf of the people using a principled approach in broad agreement with those that are governed. This Executive Government and this move to repeal the CMIC act is in opposition to this principle of legitimacy, equity and fairness under which the Commonwealth of Australia was founded.

Yours faithfully

John Merlehan