



Australian Government
Department of Transport and Regional Services

Secretary

File Reference:
Contact Gary Clark

Mr Peter Corish
Chair
Agriculture and Food Policy Reference Group GPO
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Dear Mr Corish

Subject: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES - SUBMISSION TO THE
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD POLICY REFERENCE GROUP

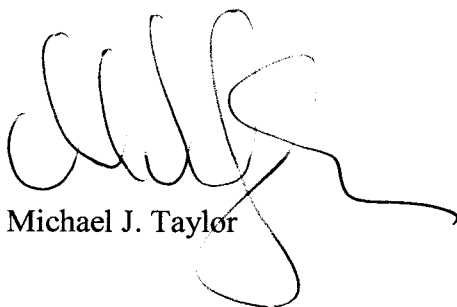
Thank you for your letter of 30 May 2005 advising me of the establishment of the Reference Group and your invitation for this Department to make a submission.

Agricultural activity provides an important contribution to the national economy. However, it also has an important and direct bearing on the economies of many regional and rural communities. New policy development to enhance the future prosperity of this industry will be welcomed.

Enclosed are two Departmental publications which relate to your 'Issues for Consideration' paper. The *AusLink: Building Our National Transport Future* is the Australian Government's formal policy statement on land transport, and provides a framework for the planning and funding of Australia's national roads and railways. The *Drought Impacts Beyond the Farm Gate: Two Regional Case Studies* examines the impact of drought on non-farm businesses and communities in two case study areas - Roma and Temora.

I understand that the Regional Women's Advisory Council is also considering making a submission. The Council was established by the previous Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon John Anderson MP, to advise him on issues affecting regional, rural and remote Australia. This Department provides secretarial support for the Council.

Yours sincerely



Michael J. Taylor