



## **BINDAREE BEEF PTY LIMITED**

A.C.N. 056 599 163

### **HEAD OFFICE**

PO BOX 405  
INVERELL NSW 2360

PHONE: (02) 67211411

FAX: (02) 67212371

E-MAIL: [Ann.Tubb@bindareebeef.com.au](mailto:Ann.Tubb@bindareebeef.com.au)

*"The Natural Beef Company"*

18 March 2010

Mr Don Heatley  
Chairman  
MLA  
Locked Bag 991  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Don

**RE: RETURNS TO LEVY PAYERS**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 March 2010.

Are you able to advise me how many of the 4,000 producers on a one-man, one vote basis voted for a continuation of the \$1.50 surcharge on the beef marketing levy?

I note your comments regarding balanced discussion about the work conducted by the MLA on behalf of producers with their money. As you are aware, the Agenda at the Forum was somewhat overwhelmed by producers concerned with BSE imports. Hopefully, now that the BSE issue is behind us (at least for the time being), the follow up meetings will provide a less emotional forum for discussion on the other major issues that the industry is facing.

Having said that, I also note that you gave a short address to the Forum and that you and David Palmer and representatives from the Cattle Council and Lot Feeders Association had extensive access to the microphone during question and answer time. Access, which you utilised by making statements as well as directly answering questions.

Bindaree Beef convened and paid for the Forum but I suspect that if the time that each speaker had in front of the microphone was added up, you and David Palmer and the Peak Council representatives would have spent more time in front of the microphone than either I or my daughter Leigh.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to obtain the information that I sought in my letter of 5 March 2010 about MLA's R & D expenditure from your website. It would appear that the MLA does not publish full information on scheduled, commissioned or completed projects. Only a small percentage of reports on R & D projects out of the total number of research and development projects undertaken through the MLA appear to be available on your website.

The information I was requesting were the names of the persons or entities who received R & D funding through the MLA, the amount of funding received by them and a general outline of the nature of the research and development.

If the names of R & D recipients and reports on R & D outcomes are available for all the MLA funded R & D projects on your website, please point me in the right direction.

If the names of the R & D recipients and report outcomes are not available on your website, would you please provide them?

This information, by definition, could not involve any breach of any commercial in confidence arrangements.

Tax payers and MLA levy payers are entitled to know exactly how their money is being spent and who is receiving it.

I await your response.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R. McDonald', written in a cursive style.

JOHN R. McDONALD  
Chairman