



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

5 October 2017

[REDACTED]
Marabila
[REDACTED]

TIBBUC NSW 2422

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Study of sustainability and profitability of grazing on mine rehabilitated land in the Upper Hunter NSW. Report June 2016 (ACARP Ref No: 53259)

I am writing to express CCA appreciation for your interest and concern on the abovementioned subject. I am also pleased to advise that CCA staff queried the National Residue Survey and fortunately found no chemical residue issues from cattle grazing in mine rehabilitated land.

Nevertheless, CCA does recognise the lack of scientific rigour of the ACARP report. Thus, we have made queries with the NSW DPI and NSW LLS and they indicated that the final report of the study is underway.

Based on the observations made by you, Dr Hart, Dr Finnie, Prof Sutherland and the members of one of our Consultative Committees, CCA drafted a letter to the NSW DPI Director General and the NSW DPI Minister to express our concern with the study and make recommendations for its final report.

These recommendations include: to ensure transparency to set the context and objectives of the experiment, noting the time lapse since the studied sites were rehabilitated. If the study aims to demonstrate that beef produced on these pastures is safe for human consumption; the study must include chemical residue testing on tissue samples at slaughter (muscle, kidney or liver) using screen tests equivalent to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources National Residue Survey (NRS) for toxic substances. We have also suggested that blood and soil testing is also required to measure important plant or animal nutrients, such as iron, selenium and copper; to provide an indication of the health status of plants and animals.

CCA also noted the report included little or no information about materials and methods. For example, details of the work done to rehabilitated areas, the characteristics of control areas and cattle management and treatments. Other observations about the presentation of the report are: the lack of references to quotes from published papers, that page numbers are not included in the report and that photos, graphics and tables do not include explanatory captions.

Kind regards,

Howard Smith
President