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INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP ON QUARANTINE

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28th May 2001

Mr. Paul Belin
A/g Assistant Commissioner
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2,
Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003



Dear Mr. Belin

Cost Recovery - Public Hearings

Further to the brief submission dated 21st May 2001 dealing mainly with the collection mechanism attached to the cost recovery of charges and our brief discussion on the issue, members of the IWGQ consider the issue to be of sufficient importance to present the submission at a public hearing.

Members would prefer to attend the hearing scheduled for Canberra 13th June 2001. To this end the undersigned has contacted your office and has been advised that an appearance can be arranged.

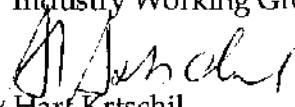
Since making its initial submission a cost recovery issue of principle involving the Australian Customs Service (ACS) and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has arisen as the result of recent, fully cost recoverable, Government initiatives in the Border Protection area.

Some members of the IWGQ are primary service providers in activity areas of the ACS and AQIS. The inconsistent application of the "User pays" or "Fee for Service" principles for like services provided by the ACS and AQIS is of concern to some of these members and one of the core issues being dealt with by the Commission as part of its current Inquiry. The IWGQ seeks to have this issue included in its presentation at the public hearing.

It should be noted that one member organisation, the Australian Air Transport Association, has a neutral position in relation to issues noted in the preceding paragraphs

Should you have any queries regarding the foregoing please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Faithfully
Industry Working Group on Quarantine


Hart Krtschil
Secretariat