4 September 2014

Hon Leon Bignell MP
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
GPO Box 464
ADELADIE SA 5001

Re: Premiers announcement to abolish all SA Government committee's and boards

Dear Mr Bignell

The Apiaries industry is a small but vitally important industry in South Australia. We produce 20% of the nation's honey but only represent 8% of the nation's beekeeping enterprises. This shows that as a state our industry is leading the nation.

As you would be acutely aware the beekeeping industry can at times be disjointed and lack unity across the board. The AIAG since its inception has brought the industry parties together to provide a single representative voice for the industry. The AIAG has been fundamental in developing and currently implementing, what started as a state Code of Practice and is now being rolled out as a national code of practice, to manage endemic disease. The AIAG has developed the Code of Practice to ensure industry can self-manage endemic disease in a sustainable way into the future without relying on government support. Whilst we are well down the track of developing the Code of Practice there is still much work to be done.

It is the view of industry and supporting industries that we continue with the AIAG and the industry fund. Maintaining the industry fund is integral to self-management of endemic disease control into the future. Currently all costs in operating the group is fully cost recovered from the industry fund. Thereby abolishing the group would save minimal money to government. In fact it is our view that this would cost the government more as it would be left to PIRSA to assist industry in the transition to self-managing endemic disease control, a role that is currently being conducted by AIAG.

The apiaries industry firmly believes it would not be in the best interests of both the Government of South Australia and the apiary industry to abolish the AIAG.

Yours sincerely

Danny Le Feuvre
Acting Chair,
South Australian Apiary Industry Advisory Group

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