



**Inghams Enterprises Pty. Limited**

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Mr G Jones  
Director  
Adjudication Branch  
ACCC  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

22 June, 2015

Dear Mr Jones,

**South Australian Inghams Chicken Growers**  
**Proposed Amendments to Authorisation A91294**  
**Interested Party Consultation**

We refer to your letter of 16 June 2015 regarding a proposed minor variation to Authorisation A91294 requested by Ingham SA Broiler growers.

Whilst we are in agreement with the proposal from the Ingham SA Chicken Broiler growers to vary the authorisation A91294 we would like to make the following comments and believe some further amendment to the Authorisation may be required.

The original authorisation was approved for the collective negotiations for **Commercial Barn Raised Broiler chickens** that existed in 2012 for chickens required to be reared by Ingham at that time.

The proposed listing of applicants included with the current application request for the minor variation (dated 3 June 2015) made by the Ingham Chicken Growers Association Inc (being a representative organisation for chicken growers contracted to Inghams Enterprises Pty Ltd in South Australia) includes all the South Australian Ingham chicken growers. We believe an additional further amendment to the Authorisation group is now required to separate the Ingham **Free Range Broiler Growers** from the **Commercial Barn Raised Broiler Growers**.

Since the Authorisation A91294 in 2012, Ingham has commenced to grow free range chickens in SA and Ingham has contracted several Free Range growers. These growers are separate from the Commercial Barn Raised RSPCA group of growers.

These growers are:

Murbko Poultry – Farm 1 & Farm 2  
Riverland Free Range Pty Ltd – Farm 2, 3, 4, 5  
Southern Cross Farms Australia – Farm 1 & Farm 2  
Southern Cross Farms SA – Farm 3 & Farm 4  
Big Bird Investments – Farm 1 & Farm 2



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Each of these growers have to date been contracted individually, and although included in the amended Authorisation request, Ingham believes that the existing Authorisation should separate the Ingham SA Free Range Broiler growers from the Ingham SA Commercial Barn Raised growers. The Free Range growers have different shedding, are required to grow chickens under different conditions, and are paid a completely separate and distinct growing fee. The farms are stocked at a different densities and growers rear birds to a different bodyweight. As a consequence they operate within their own cycle and run at a different batch rate to the commercial farms. Also, they are accredited by FREPA which is unique to this group of growers. The negotiation with this group of growers is separate and involves different matters.

Ingham believes that the Ingham Free Range Growers should be identified separately to those growers in the Commercial Barn Raised RSPCA grower group within the existing ACCC Authorisation.

We would be happy to discuss this component with you further if you require further information.

Also, the listing of Parties to the application includes a party not currently a grower:

Hunter Poultry (Robert Sherrah) – free range farm

Although we are presently in discussions with this party to grow free range chickens for Ingham, they are **not yet** a formal grower as they are presently in the new shed construction phase which is not scheduled to complete until September 2015.

We are happy for this letter to be placed on the public record and welcome any further comment you may request from us.

Yours faithfully,

**Des Hindson**  
**Executive General Manager – Southern Region**