

To Whom It May Concern

31st March 2014

I am writing to you in regards to **Safe Food Queensland** , which is in the process of ruining the business of several small innovative and passionate business owners:

Shane Muller and Julia Powell from **Backfatters Ingham** reopened the small slaughterhouse at Taylors Beach, Ingham and run a small farm shop attached to it. In 2013 Backfatters were in the finals of the ABC Delicious Food Awards for their smoked products. We, **Whitsunday Beefalo & Berkshire Gold** have been trying for years to market our beautiful free range, grass fed meat in our region. We are passionate about local, healthy food and humane raising of livestock. Finally Backfatters and ourselves got together to promote and sell our natural, healthy meat to the public. But SafeFood is intent in ruining our young exciting business venture! After the initial support with emails, telling Shane and Julia that they only needed the one licence to operate their small slaughterhouse and farm shop, they changed their minds and charged them 2 licences at \$ 1500/each plus outrageous fees on top for the yearly audits. Even though identical operations only pay for one licence, they are not willing to listen and apply the same rules to Backfatters.

I have dealt with SafeFood in the past and have found them very uncooperative. They cater to big business and don't want to bother with regional small operators.

If Backfatters have to shut their doors, we go with them and many other small regional primary producers as well.

I really beg you, Minister, to look into the practices of SafeFood as they try to ruin small businesses financially! I would like to stress that I do not have a problem with the health aspect of the department. I just question the financial milking of a small innovative business, the arbitrary charging of fees depending on who looks at the paperwork...

Looking forward to hearing from you and remain with my best regards

Christina della Valle, Whitsunday
Beefalo & Berkshire Gold, Whitsunday Farm Butchers.

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