



angus **Raff** angus



## Submission – King Island Shipping Inquiry

### A case for a direct service between King Island and Victoria

To Whom It May Concern

10<sup>th</sup> July 2017

My wife and I, our son and his wife along with their four young children, moved our stud Angus beef cattle operation to King Island from Queensland two years ago. This was a huge logistical move which entailed shipping over 600 valuable stud Angus breeding stock as well as both families, farming equipment, motor vehicles, furniture and personal effects.

We have been in the Angus Seed-stock Industry for 52 years, during which time we have established a strong market for our cattle to all states of Australia.

The core of our business is to continue to breed and supply stud Angus breeding stock to our existing clients to all parts of Australia, mainly mainland, as well as producing prime grass fed beef for the highly sought after King Island premium brand.

The success of our new venture depends largely on having a reliable, safe and efficient shipping service to deliver our product to the mainland in the shortest possible time ensuring good health and safety of our valuable livestock at all times.

This is vitally important as the social behaviour of bulls does not favourably accommodate for them to spend any extended periods of time in strange environments, particularly in transit or being held while in transit in confined spaces. Their social behaviour also dictates that they cannot be penned with strange animals or different bulls as they will fight and cause themselves injury.

**The current shipping arrangement is totally unsatisfactory for us in that for bulls to go to the mainland they are first shipped from King Island to Tasmania. Here they are unloaded off the trailers then held for an unspecified number of days in a strange and unfamiliar environment before they are then reloaded onto a truck then back onto a boat before finally being shipped to Victoria. This is simply not acceptable both at an animal welfare level and on financial grounds.**

Our recent experience in sending 36 stud bulls in May, ranging in value from \$4000 to \$20,000, proved that the current services are totally unacceptable. Many bulls were lame and sore on arrival to the mainland with two bulls receiving major injuries. Even after veterinary intervention one of these bulls had to be euthanized while the other bull's injuries are still being treated and monitored. This resulted in some very unhappy customers as well as extremely disappointed vendors. Not only did we incur extreme expense in getting the bulls onto mainland from the freight component but we then had to incur added veterinary costs. Several clients have since expressed that they may not be

prepared to continue sourcing genetics from us because of the fact that bulls have to spend so much time in transit.

A similar problem exists when bringing livestock onto the island. We recently bought stud sheep and pigs from the mainland and in both cases they had to first go to Tasmania then were reloaded for transporting back to King Island. In the case of the sheep they spent nearly two weeks in holding facilities in Tasmania - totally unacceptable for best animal welfare practices.

**What we are asking for is a regular and reliable direct shipping service between King Island and Victoria.**

The viability of our business depends on it and animal welfare best practices demand it.

In addition to transporting livestock to and from the mainland we believe it absolute 'economic madness' that fertiliser and other essential goods cannot be shipped direct from the mainland to King Island without all the double handling. This is a huge and totally avoidable cost to the island.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns and would value the chance to elaborate on my submission in person to the commission if the opportunity allows.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*David G Raff*

Raff Angus 'Muir of Logie" 108 Yarra Creek Road King Island Tasmania.

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## Allison Waddington

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**From:** David Raff <david@raffangus.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 July 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** KIF  
**Cc:** 'Andrew Raff'; jill@raffangus.com.au  
**Subject:** 2017 - freight letter  
**Attachments:** 2017 - freight letter.docx

Mr Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Sir

Please find attached submission to your King Island Shipping Inquiry.  
As pointed out I would very much appreciate the opportunity to elaborate on my submission in person at an appropriate time and place.

Thankyou  
Sincerely  
David G Raff  
044 7376033