

Read 5/5/86

Achievement Through Unity



# Victorian Farmers & Graziers Association

29 APRIL 1986

MR. D. OAKES,

GOLDEN SQUARE, V. 3555

Dear Mr. Oakes,

Thank you for your letter in which you raised your objection to section 16 of the **Agricultural Census**. The Association is well aware of the minority elements within society which might use the type of information requested in Section 16 to undermine the consumer acceptance of agricultural produce.

I must however point out that the use of chemicals in agriculture is justifiable and that it is the general policy of this Association to stand by those farming practices considered safe and proper and to defend them to the public regardless of their nature. This is considered a more positive approach to such problems than to pretend they don't exist and ignore community opposition.

The information requested in the census form is highly valuable to all sections of the rural industry. For example, the VFGA needs facts and figures on various agricultural inputs when attempting to change Government policy. (It would be necessary to know the volume of herbicide used in agriculture in arguing for a reduction in the sales tax applied to such a product.) For this reason, we cannot afford to ignore information about issues considered sensitive.

I hope this explains why the Association does not support your request to have Section 16 - type information removed from the census form.

Yours sincerely,

TIM BARKER  
Director POLICY

JH:ab

