

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter in response to the classification recommended changes of Crocodile from **Fish** to **Meat**. We will state necessary reasoning why this recommendation should not go ahead and give viable facts why the systems in place now are thorough enough to avoid change.

Most countries consider Crocodile a fish product (USA, EU, etc.). Classifying Crocodile as a Fish would change not only the domestic perception but it will also have a major effect on the way we export globally which would create regulatory and financial headaches for the industry. As we are an exporting business we would require a veterinary officer to oversee the operations on a daily basis. This along with many other costs caused by the status change will reflect on increased pricing across the board. In addition 10's of 1000's of dollars have already been spent on changing the system a few years ago to an AQIS Approved Arrangement.

Are we expecting the world market to ride the classification changes with us? If so, what are the implications of the only country classifying Crocodile as 'MEAT'?

Our modern farming techniques and strategies allow the crocodiles to grow in an environmentally sustainable manner. In conjunction with AQIS and a successful approved arrangement we have been able to demonstrate that Australia and Australian Crocodile Traders Pty Ltd produces a high quality safe food which is certified to the highest level so we fail to see how the change could possibly improve industrial practices when we currently hold an international 'A' rating and have done so for many years

Australia and Australian Crocodile Traders Pty Ltd specifically, have for the last 20 years exported hundreds of shipments under the Fish Orders without a single incident. To change the entire system to a "meat" based system surely would result in ramifications to this process.

We have reached a pinnacle in producing safe food and we know this because consumers ask for Australian Crocodile Traders product by name. We are at the forefront of leading Australia into the global market because we produce a healthy, safe and premium product and we strive to make improvements every day.

At the end of the day, the change in classification will not improve food safety; it will cost the industry \$100,000 of dollars for a low margin product, and increase red tape with little to no gain for that sacrifice.

Faithfully, Adam Williams