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**From:** Denise McNie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 October 2012 9:12 p.m.  
**To:** Secretariat Taskforce  
**Subject:** Work place safety. Agriculture

Your Submission Template does not suit as it puts all work places in one basket. There should be a specific template for agriculture and within that template we need a section for dairying, sheep and beef, deer, cropping, orchidists etc. The reasons for our accidents vary considerably. Regulating our industry with rules hasn't helped. It's time to try a different tack. Earn our respect.

Firstly look at all the poor press agriculture is receiving. We are continually being reported as the group of people who are fouling our waterways and causing climate change. Our contribution to these two causes are minimal. We are an easy target. Farmers are taken to court and fined even when they have tried to comply. They haven't the time or money to fight because the compliance standards have been changed our the tests were taken during adverse weather. The towns that are putting raw sewage into rivers are not being fined because they are a collective group and it is in the too hard basket. Councils are reluctant to put up taxes so the problem is ignored.

Farmers are being bullied by the media and bureaucrats. We have to comply with Horizons One Plan. We successfully fought to make sensible changes and all that work was thrown out by one judge. Was he a farmer or having any understanding of the farming process? NO! He listened to pen pushing bureaucrats who have money and time to put forward a more convincing one sided argument. The science was poor the arguments one sided and us farmers have neither the time or money to fight these continual battles. These rules add work and costs to us and we don't get any benefits from these. A few farmers need help to make sure they follow good practices. They are the minority but we are all being collectively punished.

Next we have got Nait. No one has been able to explain to me how putting a tag in an animals ear is going to prevent a bio security out break. It is and always will be the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. If we are serious about bio security anyone bring in prohibited goods should be put on the next flight out and if they are local then they should face a hefty fine and their passport confiscated for a period of time. Tagging all cattle and deer with these tags has just put another serious hazard into our workplace. But wait you don't have to put in a tag just pay \$13 per beast. So the \$13 is going to stop the out break? Conclusion the scheme is set for failure. The biggest reason it will fail is because it is time consuming complicated and relies on correct data being entered. We loose cattle beasts occasionally and their bodies are never found. If you are serious about reducing workplace accidents then help us oppose the Nait scheme as it is an accident waiting to happen.

The people regulating our industry have no understanding of the conditions we work in. Some drop kick is going to come around and fine me because I am not wearing my bike helmet. I choose to wear a woolly hat and if wet a hood in the winter as it gets very cold here and thats where our bodies loose the most heat. When we are cold our brains don't work as well and we could make poor decisions. The poor decision puts me at risk not the lack of a helmet. In summer I choose to wear a wide brimed sunhat and sunglasses. My eyes have better shade so I can see where I am going and my face also has better protection from the sun. It is cooler therefore once again I can make better decisions. Wearing a helmet in some cases leads to people being complacent as they believe the helmet will save them if they have a mishap. The helmet is not going to save my life. The decisions I make will determine my fate. If I am uncomfortable I will make poor decisions. Melanoma is also a factor I have to consider. Someone sitting in an air conditioned office has no idea what is good for me. Just like the coroner who said quads should be fitted with seat belts. No understanding of the extreme danger that would put us in.

Overwork, stress, debt, poor self esteem all lead to poor decisions which lead to accidents. If you are serious about accidents in agriculture help us get rid of Horizons One Plan, Nait' stifling regulations and most of all tell what a good job we are doing. Make us feel good about ourselves and we will be happier, healthier and less accident prone.

If you want to help our future workers let early childhood centres, schools and other child based instatutions let children be children. Let them make mistakes that they can learn from. Let them learn that if they fall from a height it hurts. If they crash at speed it hurts. Let them problem solve. We don't let our children experience real life. We have wrapped them in cotton wool for their own good. Really?

Listen we are giving you the answers. What you have been doing hasn't worked.

More farmers are committing suicide than work place accidents. That alone must tell you something is seriously wrong and a new regulation is not going to solve that statistic. If you want change earn our respect. Get us on side and working together. A good starting point would be to help us abolish the Nait scheme. Retagging older cattle and deer is a dangerous and unnecessary job.

Denise Mc Nie.