

25 March 2008

Jackie Lay
Policy Group
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
PO Box 2835
Wellington

Dear Jackie,

Review of ACVM (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2002 – Discussion Document

Agcarm welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review of the ACVM fees and charges.

We should like to express our appreciation for the presentation about the review made by ACVM speakers at Agcarm's summer general meeting last month. It gave our members a good understanding of the proposed changes.

Agcarm membership generally supports the altered fee structure of annual charges, fixed fees for services, and the proposed new hourly rate. We believe that this provides an equitable system for all registrants.

While no one likes to pay increased fees, our members are pragmatic about the reality of managing an organisation so that costs are recovered and that services are delivered in a timely manner. We are also mindful that costs have risen since your last review of fees.

However, we also believe that your review is an opportunity to restate the importance of constantly reviewing all expenses and finding ways to produce better outputs at lower cost. This approach is followed in the private sector, and should be standard practice in the government sector. We trust that this is the approach of the ACVM group.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of our members.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jan Quay
Technical Director - Animal Health