**Agricultural Levies Institute of Australia**

CAUTION OVER WHETHER LEVY MEETS MARKET FAILURE TEST – CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

The Agricultural Levies Institute of Australia has today expressed concerns over moves by

the ‘agri-political’ sector to siphon levy payers money to help them ‘rub shoulders’ with

politicians.

The Cattle Council of Australia’s (CCA) push to have some $0.38 of the $5.00 per sale of a

head of cattle should meet the central tenet of the Government’s own Levy Principles and

Guidelines – the market failure test.

“Agricultural levies are imposed to close the gap between producers who individually would

not otherwise be able to undertake marketing or research and development activities” said

the Chief Executive Officer of the Levies Institute. “There is a reason why they are

considered specific purpose levies – the Australian Constitution clearly defines levies”.

“Channelling farmers’ money into lobbying activities seems unfair particularly if farmers do

not feel they are getting what they pay for”, said Mr Watson.

It seems that farmers have become increasingly annoyed by the lack of representation

provided by their farming organisations which purport to represent them to Ministers.

Farmers are feeling the isolation in the Australian political world, particularly with the

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry considered as one of this government’s

most junior portfolios.

“So if farming lobby groups can’t get membership fees to fund their activities they can now

sneak around and milk the levy”, said the CEO. “The Minister should also clarify whether the

CCA is a declared body for the purposes of the Cattle Transaction Levy and how this

declaration has been actioned”.

“The Agricultural Levies Institute of Australia is determined to work for the interests of

farmers in getting the best out of their levies” said the CEO. “That’s our catchcry, ‘Partners

with Producers’ and our objective is to uphold the interests of farmers”.

Further Enquiries:

Media Liaison Consultant: 0401 414 981

For further information, visit Agricultural Levies Institute of Australia website

www.leviesinstitute.com.au.