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Land Register Consultations Working Group Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division The Treasury Langton Crescent PARKES ACT 2600 Australia

27 January 2013

RE: DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL FOREIGN OWNERSHIP REGISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND

Dear Sir/Madam,

It was resolved at the last meeting of Regional Development Australia – Far South Coast (RDA FSC) that I write to register the concern of the Committee regarding the Development of a National Foreign Ownership Register for Agricultural Land.

We look forward to the Report of the Land Register Consultations Working Group, however, the implications of increased and uncontrolled foreign ownership of prime agricultural land, the activities on that land and the destination of the final produce is a major community concern.

RDA FSC believes that foreign investment regulations need to be considered taking regard of this concern and adjustments need to be made, so the community is confident that the rules governing these purchases are sound and in Australia's national economic interest.

The RDA FSC Committee's concern for foreign ownership is not only for agricultural land but also for mining leases, land and water resources and food security and RDA Members believe these should also be included in the National Foreign Ownership Register.

I cannot stress enough the concern in our community for these issues and the RDA FSC Committee's concern is a true reflection of this anxiety. Your assistance in reflecting this concern in the development of a National Foreign Ownership Register is critical.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Pollock OAM - Chair

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- ✓ Economic development and jobs growth
- ✓ Community development
- ✓ Environmental sustainability