

SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 25, 26 MAY 2005 - ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Biosecurity Australia

Question: BA 02

Topic: Beef imports: draft policy memorandum

Hansard Page: 91

Senator O'Brien asked:

The files will record the nature of the consultation—when, where and with whom?

Answer:

Attached is Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1998/91, the mail list and responses from three stakeholders: the Chief Veterinary Officer, Western Australia, the Technical Advisor to the National Farmers' Federation and the Chief Veterinary Officer, South Australia.

98/2645

25 November 1998

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1998/91

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT
Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations
Office of the Australian CVO
Emergency Disease Strategies Section, LPD
Animal and Plant Health Branch, BRS
Veterinary Counsellors, Washington, Brussels & Seoul
Agricultural Counsellor, Tokyo

CSIRO Division of Animal Health
National Farmers' Federation
Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force, NFF
Australian Animal Health Council
Australian Veterinary Association
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
National Meat Association of Australia
Chief Veterinary Officer, MAF RA, NZ

Australian Alpaca Association
Australian Dairy Industry Council
Australian Egg Industry Association
Australian Horse Council
Australian Ostrich Association
EU Delegation, Canberra

Pork Council of Australia
Australian Registered Cattle Breeders' Association
Deer Industry Association of Australia
National Poultry Association
Australian Poultry Industries' Association

AMENDMENTS TO THE QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FROM DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK OTHER THAN PIGS AND POULTRY

Meat is currently imported under the conditions laid out in policy document *Uncanned Meat and Meat Products*, 10 October 1989. This document paraphrases Quarantine Proclamation No 134A which was gazetted 23 December 1987. The document refers to meat derived from *mammals, birds or reptiles* but its application has been narrowed as import conditions for pig meat, chicken meat and pet food are determined by more recent over-riding policy. In practice *Uncanned Meat and Meat Products* has only been directly applicable to the importation of meat of domestic livestock other than pigs and poultry.

Proclamation 134A has been superseded by Quarantine Proclamation 1998, Sections 39 and 70 which state:

39 Importation of meat and meat products

- (1) In this section:
meat means a part of an animal (other than a fish, a crustacean, a mollusc, a crustacean, a cnidarian, an echinoderm or a tunicate) that is intended or able to be used as food by a human being or an animal (whether or not cooked, dried or otherwise processed), and includes:
 - (a) blood; and
 - (b) gelatin, bone meal, meat meal, tallow and fat.*meat product* means a product that contains meat, or of which meat is an ingredient.
- (2) The importation into Australia of meat or a meat product is prohibited, other than a meat product that:
 - (a) is contained in a hermetically sealed container; and
 - (b) contains less than 5%, by weight, of meat; and

- (c) does not require refrigeration to maintain its quality.
 - (3) However, subsection (2) is not taken to prohibit the importation by a person of a thing if:
 - (a) a Director of Quarantine has granted the person a permit to import the thing into Australia; and
- Note* For what a Director of Quarantine must consider when deciding whether to grant such a permit, see Section 70*
- (b) when the thing is landed at a place in Australia:
 - (i) the permit or a copy is produced to an officer at the place; or
 - (ii) the details necessary to identify the permit are given to an officer electronically.

***70 Things a Director of Quarantine must take into account when deciding whether to grant a permit for importation into Australia**

- (1) In deciding whether to grant a permit to import a thing into Australia, a Director of Quarantine:
 - (a) must consider the quarantine risk if the permit were granted; and
 - (b) must consider whether, if the permit were granted, the imposition of conditions on it would be necessary, to limit the quarantine risk to a level that would be acceptably low; and
 - (c) may take into account anything else that he or she knows that is relevant.
- (2) In this section:

quarantine risk means:

 - (a) the likelihood that, if the permit is granted, the importation will lead to the introduction, establishment or spread of a disease or a pest in Australia; and
 - (b) the likelihood that any such introduction, establishment or spread of a disease or pest will result in harm being caused to human beings, animals, plants, other aspects of the environment or economic activities as a result of the introduction, establishment or spread of the disease or pest; and
 - (c) the likely extent of any such harm.

To avoid the confusion which has arisen following the replacement of Proclamation 134A with Quarantine Proclamation 1998 AQIS will develop conditions for the importation of the following uncanned meat and meat products:

- . Meat and meat products from domestic stock other than pigs and poultry.
- . Gelatin, collagen, meat meal, bone meal and tallow.

Conditions currently exist for the importation of pig meat from Canada and Denmark and for cooked chicken meat. Generic import risk analyses are proposed for pig meat and uncooked chicken meat. Requests to import meat of other species (eg crocodiles, possums) are currently the subject of separate consideration.

Attached to this Memorandum are proposed conditions for the importation of meat and meat products from domesticated animals of the families bovidae (including sheep, cattle, goats, antelope); cervidae (deer, elk, moose); equidae (horses, donkeys, mules) and camelidae (camels, alpacas, llamas).

These proposed conditions include:

- . most of the requirements from current policy on *Uncanned Meat and Meat Products*;
- . requirements for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), in accordance with the proposed policy on BSE (circulated for comment as AQPM 1998/73), and
- . requirements for scrapie, in accordance with draft Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code Chapter proposed for adoption in May 1999.

Your comments on these proposed requirements would be appreciated by close of business on 25 January 1999.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1982*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

SARAH KAHN
Assistant Director
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

Contact Officer: Geoff Ryan
Telephone no: (02) 6272 5138
Facsimile no: (02) 6272 3399
E-mail: geoff.ryan@aqis.gov.au

PROPOSED QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FROM DOMESTIC STOCK (excluding pigs and poultry)

1 GENERAL

1.1 Definitions

- In Section 39 of Quarantine Proclamation 1998:
meat means a part of an animal (other than a fish, a crustacean, a mollusc, a cnidarian, an echinoderm or a tunicate) that is intended or able to be used as food by a human being or an animal (whether or not cooked, dried or otherwise processed), and includes:
 - (a) blood; and
 - (b) gelatin, bone meal, meat meal, tallow and fat.*meat product* means a product that contains meat, or of which meat is an ingredient.

1.2 Products to which these requirements apply

These conditions are for meat of domesticated animals of the families bovidae (sheep, cattle, goats, antelope); cervidae (deer, elk, moose); equidae (horses, donkeys, mules) and camelidae (camels, alpacas, llamas) that is intended or able to be used as food by a human being or an animal (whether or not cooked, dried or otherwise processed), and includes blood, and bone and fat if attached to the tissue from which it was derived.
meat product is a product which contains *meat*, or of which *meat* is an ingredient.

- These conditions do not apply to gelatin; bone meal; meat meal; bone and fat not attached to the tissue from which it was derived; dairy products; deer velvet; hooves; horns or tallow.

1.3 There are no restrictions on the importation of *meat* or *meat product* which is:

- contained in an hermetically sealed container, and
- contains less than 5%, by weight, of meat, and
- does not require refrigeration to maintain quality.

1.4 Importation of *meat* and *meat product* which do not meet the criteria in 1.2 is not permitted unless the consignment is accompanied by:

- a *Permit to Import* issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), and
- a completed Sanitary Certificate which conforms with the template at Attachment 1.

1.5 The Sanitary Certificate must:

- include the Certifications listed under Section 2 of this document;
- be signed by an *Official Veterinarian*, (a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian as authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the exporting country);
- be stamped on each page with an Official Stamp.

- 1.6 The *meat* or *meat product* must be derived from animals slaughtered at establishments approved by AQIS and must be processed, prepared and stored in establishments approved by AQIS.

2 CERTIFICATION

Each consignment of *meat* or *meat product* must be accompanied by a Sanitary Certificate which conforms with the template at Attachment 1, signed by an Official Veterinarian and which attests under **IV Attestation of Wholesomeness** d) that:

2.1 GENERAL CERTIFICATION

- The *meat* in this consignment is from a single species of animal.
- The species of origin of the meat in the *meat product* in this consignment is/are recorded under **I Identification of Meat**.
- The meat was derived only from animals originating in and slaughtered in the exporting country.

2.2 ESTABLISHMENTS

- Each establishment, at which the animals (from which the *meat* or *meat product* was derived) were slaughtered, has a current approval from AQIS to export to Australia.
- Each establishment where *meat* was prepared or stored, and each establishment where *meat product* was processed, prepared and stored, has a current approval from AQIS for export to Australia.

2.3 ANIMAL HEALTH

- The animals from which the meat was derived were subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection by officers employed by (or certified by) the *Veterinary Administration* and found to be free from infectious and/or contagious diseases which could be transmitted in meat, or which could affect the quality of the meat.
- The country/zone of origin of the meat is recognised by Office International des Epizooties (OIE) as a *country/zone free from foot and mouth disease without vaccination* or a *country/zone free from foot and mouth disease with vaccination*.
- The country/zone of origin of the meat meets the OIE International Animal Health Code requirements for freedom from rinderpest (Article 2.1.4.2.).

2.4 BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

- The country/zone of origin of the meat is a ***BSE free country/zone***.

OR

- The country/zone of origin of the meat is a ***BSE provisionally free country/zone***, and
 - i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, have been slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants has been banned, and
 - iii) if BSE has been reported in the country/zone the consignment either
 - does not include bovine brains, spinal cords or protein derived from them from cattle over 30 months of age and born before the ban on feeding ruminant derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants
 - or
 - does include bovine brains, spinal cords or protein derived from them from cattle over 30 months of age and born before the ban on feeding ruminant derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants; this material has been reduced to a maximum particle size of 50 mm before heating and heated to a temperature of not less than 133°C for a minimum of 20 minutes at an absolute pressure of three bar, and

OR

- The country/zone of origin of the meat is a ***country/zone with a low incidence of BSE***, and
 - i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, have been slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants has been banned, and
 - iii) either
 - the consignment does not include bovine brains, eyes, spinal cord and distal ileum, or protein products derived from them, from cattle over 6 months of age and born before the ban on feeding ruminant derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants
 - or
 - the consignment does include bovine brains, eyes, spinal cord and distal ileum, or protein derived from them, from cattle over 6 months of age and born before the ban on feeding ruminant derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants; this material has been reduced to a maximum particle size of 50 mm before heating and heated to a temperature of not less than 133°C for a minimum of 20 minutes at an absolute pressure of three bar, and

OR

- The country/zone of origin of the meat is a ***BSE high incidence country/zone***, and
 - i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, have been slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants has been banned, and
 - iii) the cattle from which the meat destined for export originates:
 - were permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin;
 - were not the offspring of BSE suspect or confirmed females; andeither
 - were born after the date of the ban on feeding ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal to ruminants;

- or
were born and remained in herds in which no case of BSE had been confirmed during the preceding seven years.
- iv) a system is in operation enabling the fresh meat and meat products destined for export to be traced back to the establishment from which they are derived;
 - v) the *meat* and *meat products* did not contain brains, eyes, spinal cords, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestine, dorsal root ganglia, trigeminal ganglia, bones nor nervous and lymphatic tissue exposed during the deboning process, nor products derived from them, from cattle over 6 months of age;

2.5 SCRAPIE

The consignment does not contain offals (skulls including brains and eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen, distal ileum, proximal colon, lymph nodes, adrenal gland, pancreas, liver or bone marrow), and protein products derived from them, from sheep and goats over 12 months of age originating from *countries* or *zones* not considered free of scrapie.

2.6 PACKAGING

- Each carton or similar packing container contains *meat* from a single species only.
- Only clean, new bags, wrappers and packaging containers were used in the preparation of this consignment.

3 TRANSPORT

The meat must be transported from the exporting country directly to Australia in clean, sealed containers.

4 POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

The *meat* or *meat product* shall be stored for no less than 30 days after the slaughter of the animals from which it was derived before release from quarantine in Australia.

5 REVIEW

Conditions for importation may be reviewed, amended, revised or suspended by AQIS if there is a change in import policy.

SARAH KAHN
Assistant Director
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

ATTACHMENT 1

SANITARY CERTIFICATE FOR MEAT OR MEAT PRODUCT OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS OF THE FAMILIES BOVIDAE (cattle, sheep, goats, antelope); CERVIDAE (deer, elk, moose); EQUIDAE (horses, donkeys, mules); OR CAMELIDAE (camels, alpacas, llamas)

Exporting country:.....
Ministry of:
Department:
Province or District, etc.:

I. Identification of the meat

Species of origin:.....
Date/s of slaughter of the animals from which the *meat* or *meat product/s* was derived:.....
.....
Type of portions of meat or type of product:.....
Type of package:.....
Number of objects or packages:.....
Net weight:.....

II. Origin of the meat

Each establishment has a current approval from AQIS for export to Australia.

*Addresses/Identification and veterinary control number of the establishment/s at which the animals (from which the *meat* or *meat product* was derived) were slaughtered:.....
.....

*Addresses/Identification and veterinary control number of the establishment/s where *meat* was prepared or stored, and each establishment where *meat product* was processed, prepared and stored:
.....

III. Destination of the meat

The meat is being sent from
(place of dispatch)
to.....
(country and place of destination)

Nature and identification of means of transport

Name and address of exporter:.....

Name and address of consignee:

IV. Attestation of wholesomeness

The undersigned Official Veterinarian certifies that:

- a) the *meat**, packages of *meat** or *meat product* referred to above is/are stamped in a readily visible manner on the outer wrapping or package with the identification/veterinary control number of the approved establishment at which the animals were slaughtered;
- b) the meat is considered to be fit for human consumption;
- c) the *meat* was prepared or stored and the *meat product* was processed, prepared and stored in an establishment that has a current approval from AQIS for export to Australia;
- d) the *meat* or *meat product/s* in this consignment satisfies the following requirements:**

Official stamp:

Issued at..... on
Name and address of Official Veterinarian

Signature: -----

* Delete where not applicable.

** These conditions are listed under Section 2 of the AQIS document QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FROM DOMESTIC STOCK (excluding pigs and poultry)

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Bernadette Oakes
Animal Programs Section
AQIS
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

David Johnson
General Manager
Australian Alpaca Association Inc.
Private Bag 4200
BOX HILL VICTORIA 3128

Dr AC Bryce
Chief Veterinary Officer
Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries
Berrimah Agricultural Research Officer
GPO Box 990
DARWIN NT 0801

Dr Albert Cobb
Veterinary Counsellor
Australian Embassy
608 Rue Guimard
1040 BRUSSELS BELGIUM

Dr Andrew Turner
Chief Veterinary Officer
Agriculture Victoria
475/485 Mickleham Road
ATTWOOD VIC 3049

Dr Barry O'Neil
Chief Veterinary Officer
MAF Regulatory Authority
Ministry of Agriculture
PO Box 2526
WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND

Dr Bill Geering
Animal and Plant Health Branch
Bureau Of Resource Sciences
DAFF
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dr Dick Jane
Chief Veterinary Officer
NSW Agriculture
Locked Bag 21
ORANGE NSW 2800

Dr Don Savile
Chief
Division of Animal Industries
NSW Agriculture
Locked Bag 21
ORANGE NSW 2800

Dr John Edwards
Chief Veterinary Officer
Division of Animal Industries
Agriculture Western Australia
Locked Bag No 4
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983

Dr K Dunn
Director
Division of Animal Health & Animal Welfare
Dept of Primary Industries
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dr Kevin Doyle
Staff Veterinarian
Australian Veterinary Association
c/- AVA House, 7 Phipps Place
WEST DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dr Lis Lloyd-Webb
Chief Veterinary Officer
Dept. of Primary Industry and Fisheries
PO Box 46
KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249

Dr Mike Rickard
Chief
CSIRO Division of Animal Health
Australian Animal Health Laboratory
Private Bag 24
GEELONG VIC 3220

Dr Peter Miller
Veterinary Counsellor
Australian Embassy
1601 Massachusetts Avenue
WASHINGTON DC 20036 USA

Dr Robin Vandergraaf
Chief Veterinary Officer
Dept. of Primary Industries
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dr Will Andrew
Chief Veterinary Officer
PO Box 726
JAMISON ACT 2614

Executive Director
National Farmers' Federation
NFF House
Brisbane Avenue
BARTON ACT 2600

Louise Hingee
Agriculture Branch, TND
DFAT
IDS BAG

Mr Brian Ramsay
Executive Director
Pork Council of Australia
Suite 19
62 Jardine St
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Mr Chris Hood
Counsellor (Agriculture)
Australian Embassy
2-1-14 Mita Minato-ku
TOKYO 108 JAPAN

Mr Graeme Tonkin
Managing Director
Australian Dairy Corporation
Locked Bag 104
FLINDERS LANE VIC 8009

Mr Ian McIvor
Executive Director
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council Ltd
PO Box 1034
ORANGE NSW 2800

Mr John McQueen
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation
6th Floor, 84 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Eric R Hoffman
Area Director
Oceania USDA/APH/IS
American Embassy
Moonah Place
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Gardner Murray
CVO
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
DAFF
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Martin Holmes
Counsellor (Veterinary Services)
Australian Embassy
SEOUL

Mr C Morley
Executive Officer
National Meat Association of Australia
PO Box 1208
CROWS NEST NSW 2065

Mr Frank Lee
Scientific Affairs Manager
Goodman Fielder Ltd
Po1
SUMMER HILL NSW 2130

Mr Hugh McMaster
Executive Director
Australian Egg Industry Association
PO Box 569
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

Mr JG Fairbrother
Executive Director
Australian Poultry Industries Association
PO Box 579
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Mr Keith Bailey
European Union Delegation
European Commission in Australia
18 Arkana Street
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Mr Paul Crew
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Animal Health Council
Unit 15
26-28 Napier Close
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Mr Stuart Lawson
Executive Director
Australian Ostrich Association
197-199 Riversdale Road
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

Mr Tony Lamond
Secretary
National Poultry Association
GPO Box 2194
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Ms Helen Dornom
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Dairy Industry Council
6th Floor, 84 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Neil Twedde
Head
Animal Diseases/Incidents Section
Livestock & Pastoral Division, DAFF
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Rod Hoare
EMAI
Australian Horse Industry Council
PMB 8
CAMDEN NSW 2570

Mr Ray North
Australian Pork Corporation
PO Box 307
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

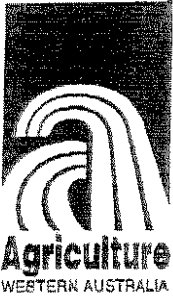
Mr Tony Beaver
Secretary
Food & Beverage Importers' Association
181 Drummond Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

Mrs Solange Shapiro
Secretary
Deer Industry Association of Australia
PO Box 1257
NORTH FITZROY VIC 3068

Ms Jan Miller
President
Australian Horse Industry Council
20 Centre Road
YELLINGBO VIC 3139

Rachel Dempster
National Foods Ltd
19-31 London Road
MILE END SA 5031

Secretary
Quarantine & Animal Health Task Force
National Farmers Federation
NFF House
12-14 Brisbane Ave
BARTON ACT 2600



FAX

RECEIVED AQIS
14 DEC 1998

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER ^{Director AQPB}
Agriculture Western Australia
3 Baron-Hay Court, SOUTH PERTH WA 6151

To: Geoff Ryan
AQIS Canberra

From: Mr Peter Buckman
Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer

Fax number: 02 6272 3399

Telephone number: 08 93683342

Date: 11 December 1998

Number of pages including this page: (One) 1

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Telephone (09) 368 3342 / 368 3341 or fax (09) 367 6248
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Message:

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1998/91.

&

AMENDMENTS TO THE QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FROM DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK OTHER THAN PIGS AND POULTRY.

Western Australia support the proposed quarantine requirements. For the importation of meat and meat product from domestic livestock other than pigs and poultry.

Regards

Dr John Edwards
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

Alick Lascelles MVS^c PhD FACVSc^c
Consultant in Veterinary Science

17 Jackson Street
Balgowlah NSW 2093
Telephone (02) 9948 4590
Facsimile (02) 9949 1276
Email alascell@tpgi.com.au

13 December 1998

**Amendments to the Quarantine Requirements for the Importation
of Meat and Meat Products of domestic Livestock other than Pigs and Poultry
AQPM1998/91**

This amendment has been made necessary in order to avoid confusion which has arisen following the effective supersession of the original Quarantine Proclamation (134A) by Proclamation 1998 Sections 39 and 70. The amendment specifically addresses meat and meat products from domestic livestock other than pigs and poultry and includes gelatin, collagen, meat and bone meal and tallow. Domestic livestock include sheep, cattle, antelope, deer, equids and camelids. While there may be only limited trade expected in this area, Australia is nevertheless obliged to provide the opportunity for trade in any product so long as it can be achieved without significant risk.

The draft conditions outlined are generally consistent with the new draft conditions pertaining to BSE recently circulated. It is recalled that these were developed primarily in the interests of safety but taking account of OIE requirements and Australia's own export interests.

The proposed amendments seem reasonable and should be supported.

AQIS may like to consider the following minor amendments to the text on page 3:

- 1) Delete the second and third lines from the top of the page and insert: "affected animals and the last progeny of affected females born within two years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms..."
- 2) Delete lines 7, 8, and 9. Insert: "does not include brains, spinal cords or derived protein by-products of cattle over 30 months of age and born ..."
- 3) Delete lines 11, 12 and 13. Inscrt: " does include brains, spinal cords or derived protein by-products of cattle over 30 months of age and born before the ban on feeding ruminant derived meat and bone meal to ruminants providing this material has been reduced ..."

I suggest comparable changes be made to the sub-sections of the two dot points lower down on page 3.



AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES
AQUACULTURE
FISHERIES
MINERAL RESOURCES
PETROLEUM
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY
RURAL COMMUNITIES OFFICE
SA RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

VED AC

DEC 1998

Director AQUA

To: Dr Sarah Kahn Assistant Director Animal Quarantine Policy Branch	Fax: 02-62723399 Phone: 02-62725138
From: Robin Vandegraaff Chief Veterinary Officer	Fax: 08-82077852 Phone: 08-82077970 0417-813789 Email: vandegraaff.rob@pi.sa.gov.au
Date: 14 December 1998 11:42	Pages sent (including this cover sheet) 1

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MESSAGE:

Importation of Meat/Meat Products – AQPM 1998/01

I support the proposed protocols in the above memorandum but query the following:

In 1.4 there is a reference to 1.2, which I believe should be a reference to 1.3.

In 2.3 there are references to heating to 133° for 20 minutes at 3 bars. A recent meeting of the EU Scientific Committee has recommended that this be 140° for 30 minutes at 3.6 bars. Can this be checked and if this more stringent protocol is going to become the standard then I recommend that 2.3 be amended accordingly.

Robin Vandegraaff *RVB*
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER
33 Flemington Street, Glenside, SA 5065
GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone (08) 8207 7970 Facsimile (08) 8207 7852
International Code +618 www.pir.sa.gov.au



Government
of South Australia

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