

The Hon. Tony Burke MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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DAFF09/311B

In response to claims that Chinese beef has been imported into Australia, I have received the following advice from the Director of Quarantine:

1. A consignment of beef sent to Australia was incorrectly recorded on import.
2. The import record wrongly identified the country of origin as China.
3. The beef contained in the consignment was New Zealand beef, which is permitted in Australia.
4. While the mistake is unacceptable and ought not to have occurred, there has been no biosecurity risk as a result of this error.

As a result of these events, I have asked the Director of Quarantine to review the quality of our management, training needs, coordination and verification to ensure people have confidence in our biosecurity and quarantine system.