

The Senate

Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport
References Committee

The possible impacts and consequences for
public health, trade and agriculture of the
Government's decision to relax import
restrictions on beef

Final report

June 2010

© Commonwealth of Australia 2009

ISBN 978-1-74229-331-8

This document was prepared by the Senate Standing Committee on Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport and printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra.

Membership of the Committee

Members

Senator Fiona Nash, Chair	New South Wales, NATS
Senator Glenn Sterle, Deputy Chair	Western Australia, ALP
Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan	New South Wales, LP
Senator Julian McGauran	Victoria, LP
Senator Christine Milne	Tasmania, AG
Senator Kerry O'Brien	Tasmania, ALP

Participating members participating in this inquiry

Senator Chris Back	Western Australia, LP
Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck	Tasmania, LP

Secretariat

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe, Secretary
Ms Trish Carling, Senior Research Officer
Ms Lauren McDougall, Executive Assistant

PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 3511
Fax: 02 6277 5811
E-mail: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au
Internet: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/index.htm

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership of Committee	iii
Chapter 1	1
Introduction	
Conduct of the inquiry	1
The committee's first report	1
The committee's final report	2
Acknowledgement	2
Chapter 2	3
Risk analysis processes for the importation of beef and beef products	
Assessment by the Australian BSE Food Safety Assessment Committee	4
Import risk analysis by Biosecurity Australia	7
Parliamentary scrutiny of risk assessment processes	9
Development of effective import protocols	13
In-country inspections	15
Economic impact of the new policy - consultation with Australia's current trade partners	17
Review of Country of Origin Labelling	18
Current understanding of human health risks associated with BSE	20
Conclusion	21
Dissenting Report by Government Senators	23
Introduction	23
Import Risk Assessment (IRA) Process, Ministerial and Parliamentary Involvement	25
Tracing product from point of sale	26
Current understanding of human health risks associated with BSE	26
APPENDIX 1	27
Submissions Received	

APPENDIX 2

31

Public Hearings and Witnesses

Monday, 14 December 2009	31
Friday, 5 February 2010	32
Monday, 22 February 2010	33
Thursday, 25 February 2010	34
Friday, 14 May 2010	35