

Safeguards Inquiry into the import of Pig Meat. November 12th, 2007

No. 1

I express concern at the variability within a year of tonnages of pig meat imported into Australia, including Western Australia. This rate of variability is not balancing the variability in exports and production of Australian pig meat.

There is an urgent need to adopt a procedure so that the imports of pig meat into Australia within the guidelines of the W.T.O. Agreement enable or force the imported product to have a more even flow of entry into Australia, rather than a highly variable rate of flow.

Documents supporting the above comments I list below.

Variability in Australian exports is minimal
June '07 4042 SW
May '07 4410 SW
June '06 4479 SW
Moving annual total (MAT) 48209 SW Ref. A.P.L. June '07

Variability of Australian production is minimal
June '07 34403 Tonnes
May '07 36323 Tonnes
June '06 36011 Tonnes
Pig meat production in Australia in 12 months, June '06 to June '07 dropped 4.4%
and I am advised that this rate of decrease is increasing at this point of time.
Ref A.P.L. June '07 Market Report

Variability of imports into Australia
June '07 8671 tonnes
May '07 12654 tonnes
June '06 6185 tonnes
M.A.T 106,574 tonnes
June '07 tonnage is 40.2% greater than June '06 tonnage imported.

The moving annual total value (M.A.T.) in dollar terms from June '06 to June '07, has increased by 53% with the total value for June '07 being \$429m dollars (refer A.P.L. June '07 market report)

Some of the increase in imports could well be due to the relaxation of the W.T.O. Agreement as mentioned in point 3, page 8 of Productivity Commission Issues Paper October 2007.

No. 2

Assistance that overseas exports/producers (can be the same entity) are receiving from country of origin needs clarification. This, in part, also relates back to Section 3, page 8 Safeguards Inquiry into the import of pig meat.

The W.T.O. Agreement has relaxation clauses and is basically allowing free movement of trade between given countries.

There are relaxation clauses within the Agreement, but there does not appear to be clauses that relate to free trade having a level playing field at the commencement of free trade.

This is a major Government and possibly Industry oversight and it needs immediate rectification by Government action.

No. 3

Product labelling. There is an urgent need for legislation with the appropriate wording to clearly identify Australian Made Products or Australian Grown produce from products made or produced elsewhere.

I list below six examples of food products picked at random.

1. Australia since 1895
made in Australia
2. Australian Family Owned Company. Manufactured in South Australia.
Made in Australia from imported and local ingredients.
3. Australian Favourite. Made in Australia. Packed by company in
Victoria.
4. Licenced to Foods Australia Product of Alaska
5. Made in Australia . Australian grown.
6. Made in Australia from locally and imported ingredients.

After studying these labels, only product No 5 was made in Australia and grown in Australia. This clearly shows the Australian purchaser of these goods would have difficulty in clearly identifying genuine Australian goods from overseas goods .

In relation to Question 4 on page 11 and Question 5 on page 12 has or is the Industry suffering serious injury. The answer is yes. I list the following points.

Lack of profitability

Not sustainable in the medium or long term

Increasing introduction of disease risk

Declining Australian production

Increasing Australian dollar value

Lack of industry confidence at employer and management level.

Increasing lack of confidence showing within the employees of the industry

One standard for exports another standard for imports.

Graeme K Jones

Corackerup Farming

Ongerup Western Australia 6336



CORACKERUP FARMING

ABN:

P.O. BOX 30

ONGERUP WA 6336