



## **NORTHERN CO-OPERATIVE MEAT COMPANY LTD**

ABN: 42 060 208 366

**10615 Summerland Way, (PO Box 379), Casino NSW 2470, Australia**  
**Telephone (02) 66 622444** **Facsimile (02) 66 622391**  
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26<sup>th</sup> November 2007

***To Whom It May Concern***

### ***Submission - "Inquiry into Imported Pigmeat".***

Dear Sirs / Madams

This document represents a formal submission to the Productivity Commission – on "Imported Pigmeat".

The Northern Co-operative Meat Company Ltd (NCMC) owns and operates a dedicated pig processing facility establishment 7170 (CRSM Booyong) in the Northern Rivers of Northern NSW. The Booyong operation has a reputation both domestically and internationally as a supplier of boutique quality pork products. It has been recognised by the Singaporean carcass market as one of Australia's leading pig processing facilities due to its ability to grade and supply pigs consistent with this markets demanding specification for skin colour, fat coverage and overall meat quality.

The Booyong operation has afforded many of today's leading processors with their commencement in the pig processing industry, without the high capital cost associated with building or purchasing an abattoir.

The Co-operative is 100% Australian owned and has 1500 producer members, a number of whom are pig producers. Its Booyong pig operation holds export licences to a number of sensitive global markets and operates purely as a dedicated service processing operation for a large number of independent meat operator/clients along with a number of primary producers who have established a vertical integration strategy from producer to end user. The operation processes the full spectrum of pig weights from slaughter to fabrication / boning. The plant has the ability to slaughter, bone and package up to 5000 animals per week and employed over 80 employees. The facility was completely rebuilt in 1997 into a modern export pig processing facility with all the most advanced processing techniques available. The capital cost associated with this project was approximately \$5 million. The facility recovers every possible fancy meat / offal of the pig carcass for human consumption or for pharmaceutical use.

In 2002 the Board of the Northern Co-operative Meat Company made the decision to commence building an integrated pig boning room to compliment the export slaughtering facility. During the design and construction phase of the export boning room the Co-operative made the decision to commence pig boning operations in another facility owned by the Co-operative as a temporary measure to support our customer's needs and to develop the internal expertise in the boning of pigs. Once the new integrated export pig boning room was completed at Booyong the skilled employees and the boning business was relocated to the facility as a going concern in September 2003. The establishment of the pig boning facility received some Federal Government funding via the "Dairy Wrap Program" with the total capital investment being \$2.3 million.

In May 2004 the Australian Federal Government via determination of an Industry Risk Assessment by Bio-Security Australia opened up market access to a number of other countries for frozen pig meat which had all bone and glands removed. The Government's decision to open up these markets was challenged in the Federal Court and then in the High Court which ultimately ruled in favour of Bio Security Australia. During the various court challenges in 2005 the importation of pig meat continued at elevated levels due to the potential for market closure due to a court determination.

Since May 2004, pig meat imports into Australia have grown significantly at the expense of the Australian pig meat industry which today is in free fall with the ultimate collapse of this industry imminent. We are of the opinion that the Australian Government's request to have the Productivity Commission conduct a "Safe Guards Inquiry into the Import of Pigmeat" is the pivotal point in the future of the Australian pig meat industry and we welcome the opportunity to respond to the points of consideration tabled in the Commission's "Issue Paper".

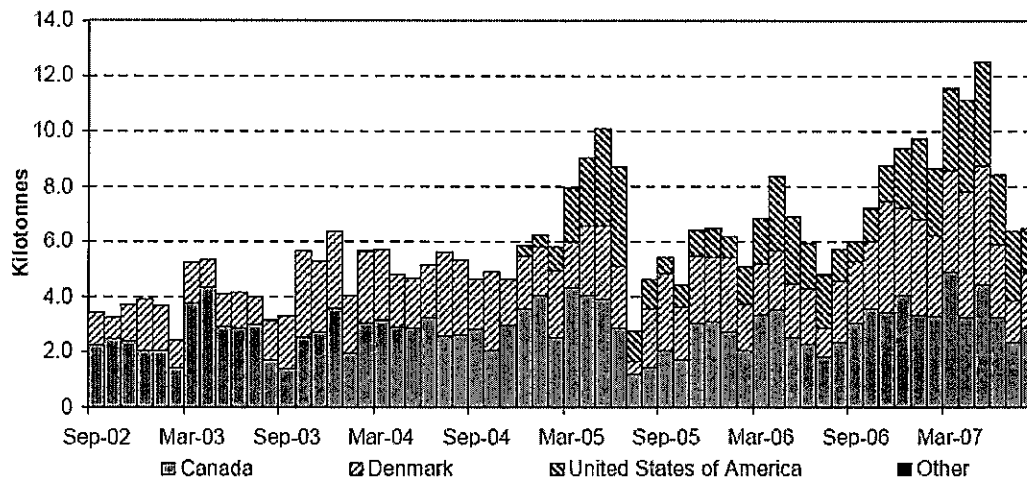
### **Points of comment to the "Issues Paper"**

#### **Question 1: Have imports increased?**

It is obvious from the data supplied by the Commission and ABS (*Graph 1 below*) that pig meat imports have increased from approximately 4000 tonne per month in early 2003 to over 12,000 tonnes mid year in 2007. This significant increase represents a 300% growth in pig meat imports into Australia. This growth has obviously come at the expense of the Australian pig growers, the processing industry and the fabrication industry.

As the Australian pig herd contracts, it is reasonable to predict that imports will only increase further as pig producers and processors exit the industry.

*We do note that the Graph contained in the Productivity Commission Issues Paper on page 8 is inconsistent with the Graph on the Commissions Web site. We have utilised the graph from the web site as it would appear to more accurately reflect actual imports.*



Data source: ABS unpublished.

Graph 1 (Sourced from the Commissions web site.)

## Question 2: Was the increase in imports the result of unforeseen developments and the result of [WTO] obligations incurred?

Two significant events have occurred since May 2004. One relates to the worst drought Australia has endured in over 100 years and the other being the huge appreciation of the Australian dollar against the US currency.

As the Commission would be aware, one of the greatest input costs to the Australian pig producer is the price of feed ingredients. In June 2004 the price of wheat, sorghum and barley in Australia were respectively \$191, \$142, \$174 per tonne. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 the price for the same grain was \$377, \$305, \$340. This represents an average increase in input cost of approximately 102%. (*Appendix H*)

Running tangentially with increasing feed costs was the appreciation of the Australian Dollar against the US Dollar. The appreciation of the Australian Dollar affords pig meat importers a more attractive opportunity to import pig meat from the US as in Australian Dollar terms you get more imported pig meat for your dollar. Since May 2004 the Australian Dollar has appreciated by 37% from May 2004 of 68.37 till 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 where it reached 93.43. This increase has obviously made imported pig meat more attractive for importers to the detriment of the Australian pig meat industry.

If the Australian industry was to collapse and market conditions were to revert back to the same currency and grain prices as in May 2004, then it would take a considerable amount of time for the Australian industry to rebuild. During that rebuilding period the Australian consumer would pay significantly higher prices for pig meat as our dependence on imported pig meat would remain, until such time as the industry re-adjusted.

**Question 3: Defining the industry: who are producers of 'like' or 'directly competitive' goods?**

In our opinion the industry comprises of pig producers, pig processors, boning / fabrication facilities and smallgoods manufacturers. Each of these sectors is interlinked extremely closely. A collapse in demand or supply at any point within what we have defined as the industry will have repercussions on the total supply chain and ultimately the Australian consumer.

The Commission has asked for a definition of competitive goods. It is our opinion that the pig producer, processor and fabricator need an outlet for every possible finished product from a pig or pig carcase. The commercial reality is that for any business to survive in primary production, processing and boning pigs is its ability to sell every part of the carcase at the highest possible market price. This in fact is even more pronounced on high value pig meat cuts such as the loin and leg meat which represents over 60% of the carcase by weight and 60% of the carcase value.

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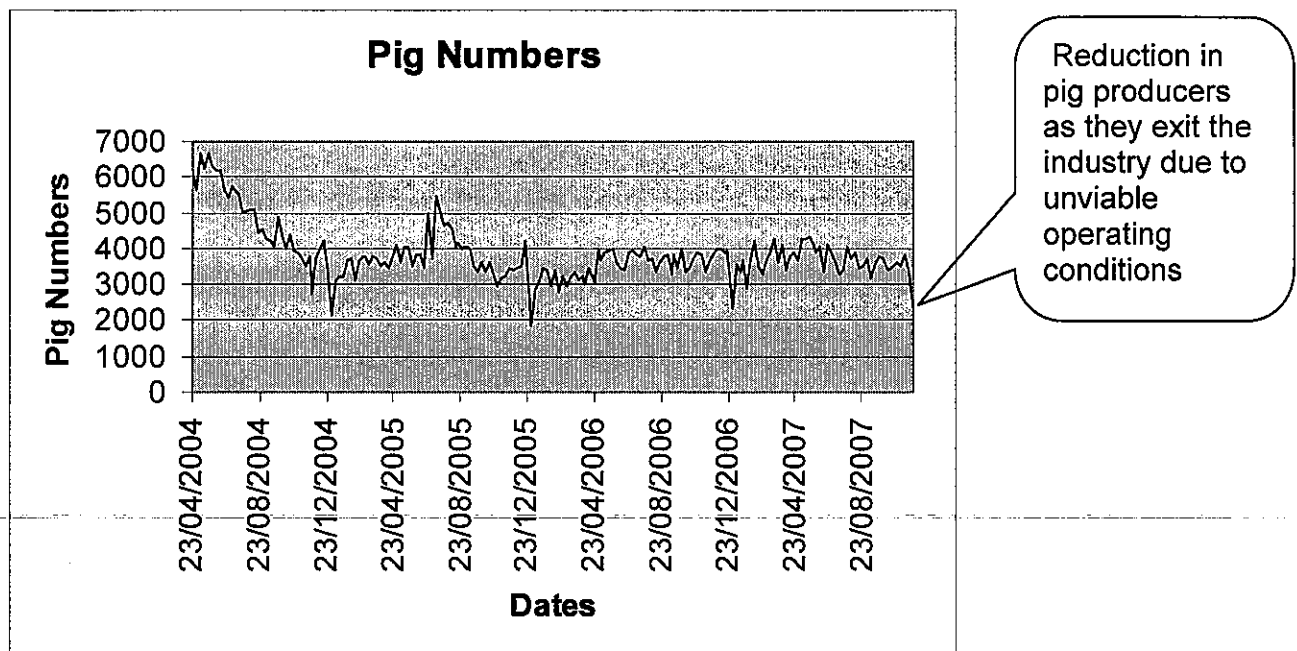
Unfortunately a relatively large proportion of the imported pig meat is the high value cuts "that represent 60% of the carcase by weight and value" for products such as bacon, boneless hams and smallgoods. Importing these high value cuts at significantly lower prices places huge downward pressure on the Australian pig meat industry and meat prices generally which it cannot sustain.

**Question 4: Has the industry suffered, or is it likely to suffer, serious injury?**

Our Co-operative has repeatedly written to respective Federal Government Ministers warning them of the pending impact on the Australian pig meat industry. We have already made submissions to earlier Productivity Commission Inquiries into our industry. Our concerns have been both on a Bio-Security basis and on the premises that a number of Australia's global competitors are afforded more favourable operating environments for their processors and producers.

The significant increases in imported pig meat since September 2004 has had a devastating effect on our operation with pig numbers in our facility rapidly falling by up to 30%, as pig producers pull out of the industry due to the competitive edge imported pig meat has in Australia (*Graph 2*). The primary reason for the decline in pig producer numbers relates directly to the price they receive for their livestock which in turn is affected by the domestic market price for pig meat that our operator clientele receive. If the domestic market price for pig meat is lowered by imported pig meat, then the price the Australian producer receives for his animal is lowered.

## Pig Production Numbers per Week



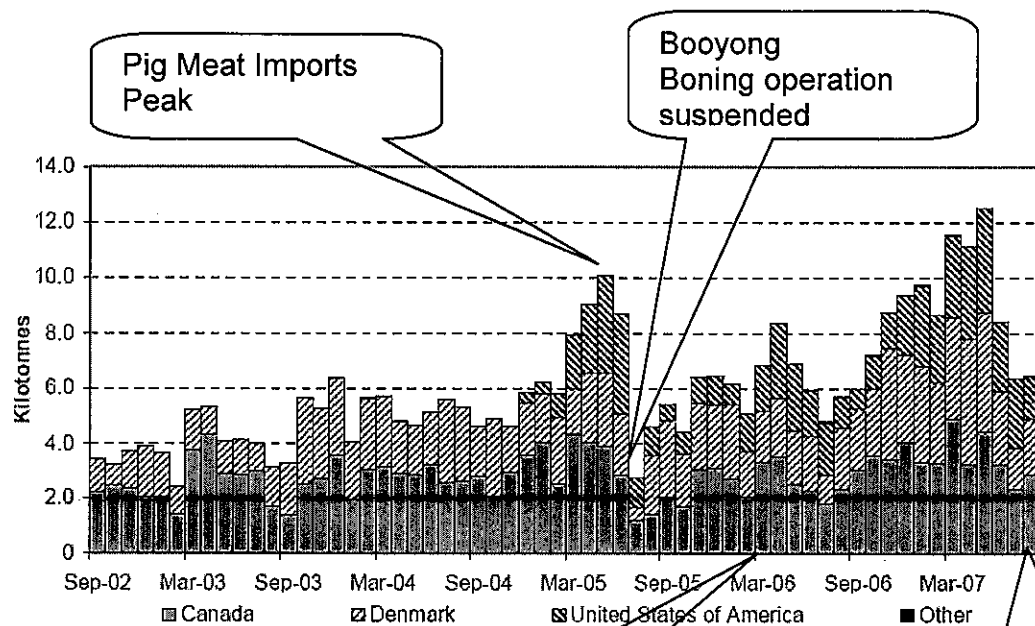
Graph 2

The reduction in the number of pig producers in our geographical area has been significant and it is forecast to accelerate significantly given the volume of imported pig meat entering the country today. A number of our remaining key primary producer suppliers have already commenced liquidating their breeding stock with another concluding his time in the industry prior to Christmas this year.

The reduction of pig numbers available for processing has placed at risk our operator clientele business and ultimately the employment of many of the remaining 60 plus employees at Booyong, let alone the significant number employed by our operators and pig producers. Any adverse effect on employment must repercuss on a potentially already fragile regional economy here in the Northern Rivers of NSW. Some of our major operator clientele have stopped boning / fabricating pigs and they have clearly highlighted that if the downward trend in pig numbers continues then they may cease trading in Australian pig meat as their internal viability is being compromised.

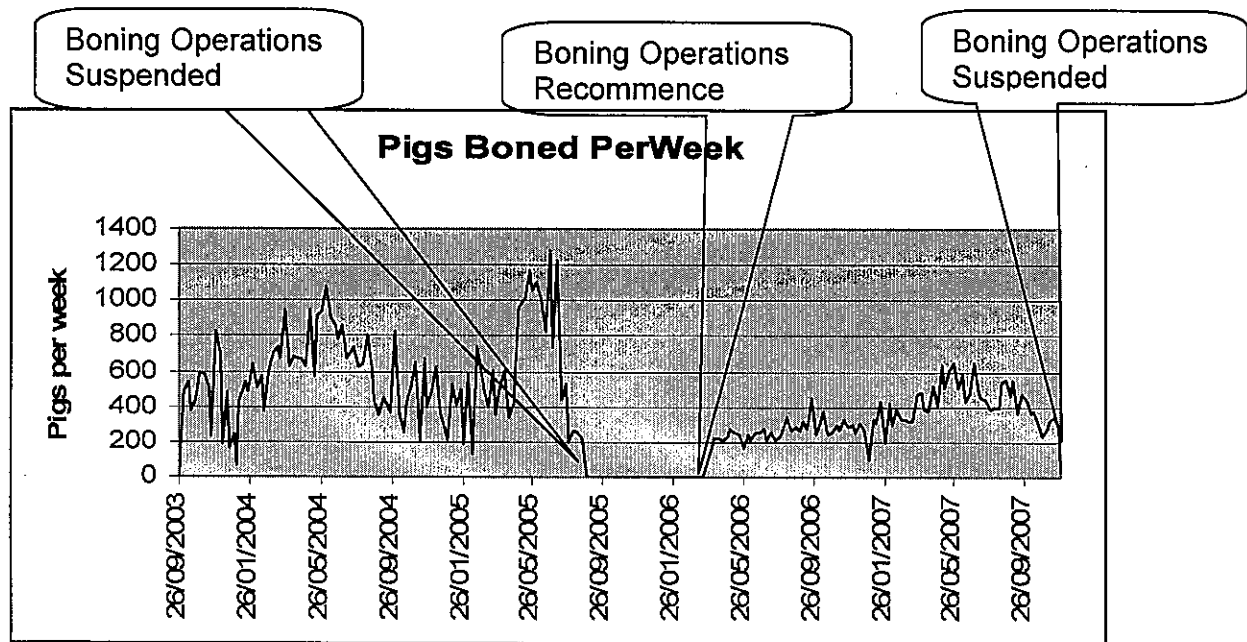
As can be seen by the attached (*graphs 3 & 4*), from the commencement in August 2003 until July 2005 the boning operation handled production levels spanning between 400 and 1200 pigs per week. In Late July 2005 the boning production numbers fell rapidly away due to the significant volumes of imported pig meat in the months of April, May, June and July of 2005. This sudden decline forced the closure of the facility for an extended period of time as our operator customers were unable to compete in the domestic market place against imported pig meat.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005 the Board suspended the pig boning operation at Booyong as it was no longer viable to operate the facility. The closure of the facility required down sizing of the plants workforce by approximately 25 individuals who were at that time offered employment elsewhere within the NCMC group of companies. (*Please note appendices A, B, C, D, E, F, G*)



Data source: ABS unpublished.

Graph 3



Graph 4

It is our opinion that the above data (*graphs 3 & 4*) clearly demonstrates the impact imported pig meat is having on our business. On the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007 we reduced our workforce by another 10% and we are cognisant that given this trend continues and there is no reduction in the volume of imported pig meat entering our shores, there will be further and more significant cut backs in employment at our processing facility. In essence the future of our business hinges on the decision of the Commission or a significant turn around in the prospects of the industry.

**Question 5: Are increased imports causing serious injury?**

We are of the opinion that the information detailed in Question 4 clearly demonstrates that imported pig meat is having a significant and detrimental effect on our business, the producers who supply the live animals to our facility and our operator clientele.

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Our losses sustained over the last 4 years are approaching \_\_\_\_\_. Predominantly these losses are associated with fabrication / boning and we have been required to write down the value of the assets associated with this business by a further \_\_\_\_\_ dollars due to the continued losses incurred in line with the International Financial Reporting Standard. From our perspective, this represents a combined loss of \_\_\_\_\_ and serious injury to our business. An injury we cannot sustain indefinitely.

There is no question in our mind that the demises of our local pig producers can also be directly attributed to imported pig meat. With the impact of rising grain prices both domestically and globally, the drought in Australia and the escalating Australian Dollar against the US rising by 14% from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and a further rise of 10% from June 30 2007 till 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007, only further crippling an industry struggling against multiple hurdles.

**Question 6: What safeguard measures would remedy serious injury?**

The issue of what safe guard measures will remedy the serious injury sustained by our industry will be complex and potentially challenging for the Commission.

We do wish to record that many of Australia's trading partners today still invoke tariffs and or quota constraints. The US today has Quota constraints on Australian beef entering its borders. If the quota is breached a tariff of 26.5% is applied to the FOB price of all imported beef products crossing its border.

Japan has a beef snap back provision whereby if imports increase by more than 17% in a 12 month period, a snap back provision is imposed and a tariff of 50% is placed on the FOB value of the beef products crossing its border.

Both the above provisions provide their domestic industries an opportunity to adjust from the vaguer ties of global trading conditions and we believe it would be completely reasonable for Australia to have similar provisions to support our industry.

*We do not wish to comment on Questions 7&8 as we feel we are not in a position to do so.*

## **Conclusion**

We do vehemently support the view that the importation of pig meat is devastating the Australian industry and that present climatic condition and grain prices are affecting primary producer extensively. On the opposite side of the equation the strength of the Australian dollar is actively supporting the importers of pig meat.

Our organisation wishes to formerly thank the Commission for allowing us to put forward our submission and we are hopeful of a positive outcome from the Commission's determination before it is too late to save this significant industry.

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11 August 2005

Hon Ian Causley, MP  
Federal National Party Member  
Po Box 1119  
Lismore NSW 2480  
[ian.causley.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:ian.causley.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ian

### **Closure of Booyong Boning Room**

I did not want to catch you unaware and tried to meet with you earlier today but your diary did not permit this.

You will find attached a media release that will be announced this morning regarding the closure of the Booyong boning room. I will be addressing the employees at Booyong this morning at 10 am.

I hope you understand that this is in no way an attack on any of the good work that you do in this area but it is no longer viable to keep the operation working under the current circumstances.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Burridge", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Burridge  
General Manager  
Northern Co-operative Meat Company Ltd



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11 August 2005

Mr Thomas George  
State National Party Member for Lismore  
PO Box 52  
Lismore NSW 2480  
[thomas.george@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.george@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Thomas

### **Closure of Booyong Boning Room**

Please find attached a press release regarding the Booyong Boning Room. I do understand you are overseas and I sincerely hope you are having a well deserved break.

The decision to close the boning room at Booyong was a difficult one but necessary.

The attack on the Government relating to the Bio-Security Australia's decision regarding the importation of pig meat has been just as effective as talking to brick walls for the last eighteen months.

I do want to point out that this is not in any way an attack on the good work that you do in our area.

I hope you have a safe journey home.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Burridge", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Burridge  
General Manager  
Northern Co-operative Meat Company Ltd



Appendix C

## **NORTHERN CO-OPERATIVE MEAT COMPANY LTD**

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12<sup>th</sup> August 2005

Garry Joice  
Area Technical Manager  
PO Box 1745  
Armidale NSW 2350

Dear Garry

### **Closure of Booyong Boning Room**

The Northern Co-operative Meat Company wishes to formally advise you and your department that effective from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005 the Booyong Boning Room operations will be suspended until further notice.

The suspension will affect the boning operations only and this decision is the result of dwindling numbers for boning. This decision will have no effect on our normal killing and processing of pigs.

The decision to suspend boning operations was not an easy one but necessary as it would appear there is little likelihood of achieving the critical mass to make pork boning viable in the foreseeable future.

Ongoing issues relating to the NSW road weight limits affecting the number of pigs that can be transported by road from Queensland, a decline in local pig numbers and producers and the importation of raw pig meat are all contributing factors in our decision to suspend operations.

Yours faithfully

Gary Burrridge  
General Manager

## Meat union calls for common sense as 24 jobs go

By HANNAH ROSS

THE union representing Booyong's retrenched meat workers has called on Federal and State governments to 'put some common sense back into securing jobs for meat workers in Australia.'

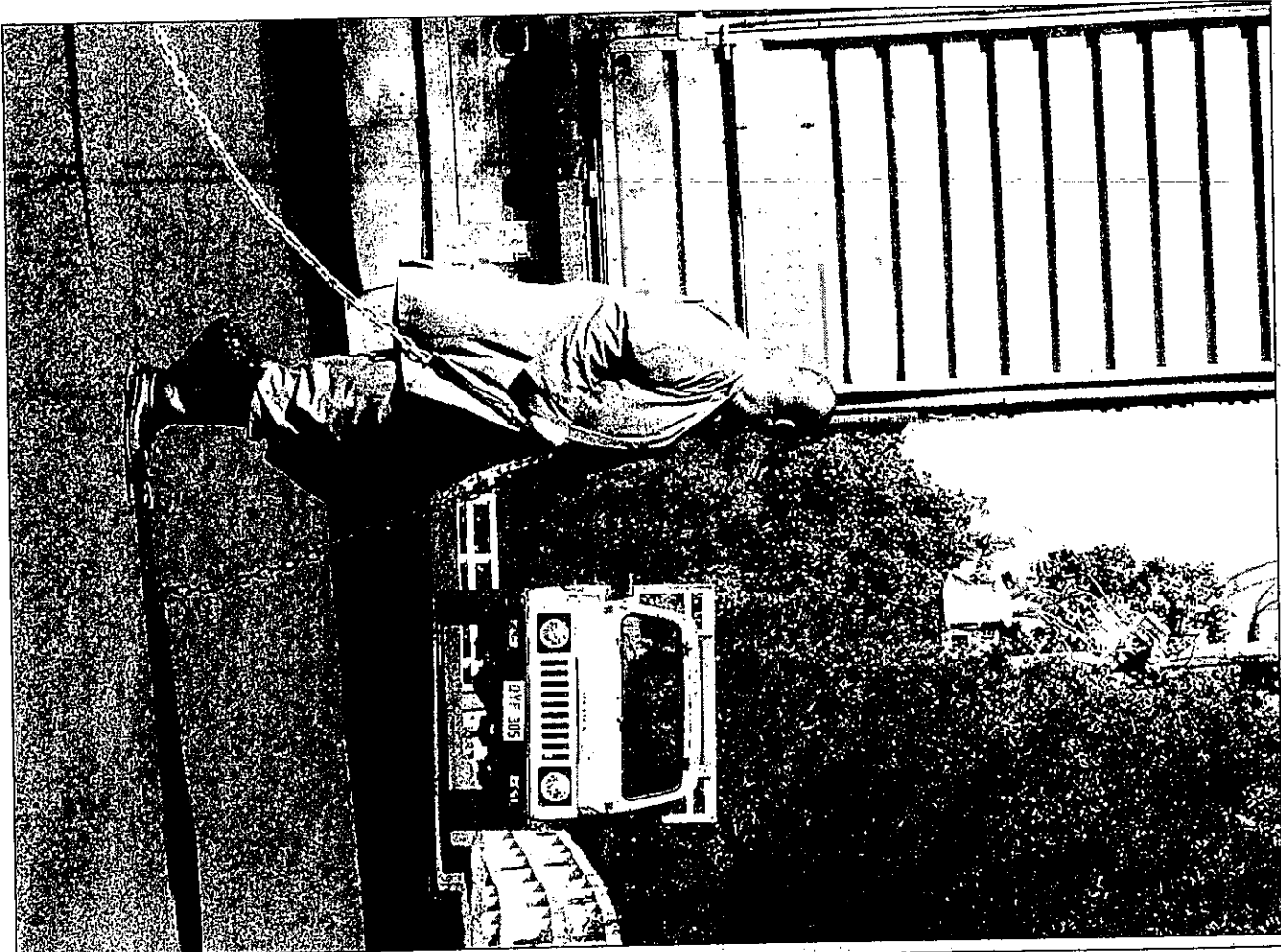
Secretary of the Newcastle and Northern Branch of the Australasian Meat Industry Employee's Union, Kath Evans, said the 24 retrenchments were another example of the Federal Government turning its back on Australian meat workers.

On Thursday Northern Co-Operative Meat Company general manager Gary Burridge said since the Federal Government body Bio-Security Australia decided last year to allow the importation of raw pig meat into Australia, piggeries throughout the State had shut down or wound back their business.

Ms Evans called on government representatives to meet with representatives of the union and the Northern Co-operative Meat Company, which operates the Booyong plant.

She confirmed the retrenchments and closure of boning operations at the plant were the result of Bio-Security Australia approving importation of raw pig meat to Australia.

She said Northern Co-operative Meat Company also advised the union that the disparity in road weight limits between NSW and QLD had also led to loss of profitability at the plant.



ON GUARD: Security on Thursday at the gate of the Export and Domestic Processing Plant, Booyong.

## Children warned about predator

SOUTH Lismore Public School children were yesterday warned that a serial child predator was active in their area.

Principal Erwin Bates and assistant principal Jo Wright issued the warning during morning assembly.

"We required extra reinforcement of the issue at this time, considering the potential for danger is out there," Mr Bates said.

The educators spoke about how children should react when they feel slightly uncomfortable, where not to go, how to say no, and went through a range of scenarios of ways they might be approached.

A 14-year-old schoolgirl was incidentally assaulted while walking home on Union Street at South Lismore last week. Richmond Local Area Command duty officer Dave Larkin described her attacker as Caucasian, about 180cm tall, mid-20s, with short black hair and a solid build.



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Erwin Bates.

## Byron driver jailed

A BYRON Bay woman was yesterday sentenced to 18 months' jail for driving offences.

Michelle Kathleen Cowan, 40, appeared at Byron Bay Local Court facing three charges of driving while disqualified and a low range drink driving charge.

The court heard Cowan had clocked up a total of 11 counts of driving while disqualified during her years as a driver.

Cowan was also disqualified from holding a licence until 2013.

# Biosecurity chief roasted

## AT A GLANCE

- Biosecurity Australia CEO John Cahill under fire from farmers in Brisbane.
- Mr Cahill responds saying his organisation has improvement plans in place.
- Farmers remain unconvinced by the efforts of Australia's quarantine watchdog.

By **BRAD COOPER**

FARMERS, lobbyists, academics and captains of Australian agribusiness lined up to have Biosecurity Australia chief executive John Cahill for breakfast in Brisbane last week - literally.

The besieged head of Australia's quarantine regulator was at the Royal Show to address guests of the Queensland Rural Press Club's Ekka breakfast, and answer a chorus of criticism over his organisation's growing list of failures and alleged blunders.

While Mr Cahill might have been in the Sunshine State capital, the atmosphere in the room was certainly no warmer than the winter chill of his Canberra base - although the heat began to rise considerably once the plates were cleared and questions were requested from the floor.

Primary producers were quick to find their feet, particularly Goondiwindi pork producer Ken Cameron who gave his target a fiercely hot reception.

"I hope everybody enjoyed the bacon, because there's a fair chance it was imported from Denmark," he said.

"You people are absolutely, grossly incompetent, playing with our future in primary production."

Mr Cameron is among the many Australian pork producers worried about the threat posed to their industry by post-weaning multisystemic syndrome (PMWS).

Biosecurity Australia has recommended the importation of pork from North America and Denmark, where PMWS exists. Earlier this year, the Federal Court ruled the importation was too risky, but in June the Department of Agriculture announced it would appeal the decision, providing Australian producers with another battle front.



Goondiwindi pork producer Ken Cameron fires his questions at the Rural Press Club.

With tension in the room building, Mr Cameron then began to read from the court's judgement, despite numerous attempts by the club's secretary, Liliana Molina, to force him to ask his question.

Ms Molina: "Ken, could you get to your question, please?"

Mr Cameron: "Yeah, I'll get to it. I just want people here to know some facts."

But it's not only pork producers who are sick to the stomach from what they see as gross incompetence at the hands of Biosecurity Australia's risk assessment modellers.

Beef producers were aghast last month when SBS revealed that Biosecurity Australia issued a licence to Heinz to import beef into Australia from Brazil without travelling to the country to inspect local conditions and quarantine procedures.

SBS's investigation found the so-called 'FMD-



Under fire: Biosecurity Australia chief John Cahill responds.

free zones' within Brazil to be 'highly porous' with cattle able to wander into Brazil from countries with a history of the disease.

The credibility of the zones was at the centre of a Senate inquiry earlier this year, when Liberal Senator Bill Heffernan raised allegations that Heinz had dumped Brazilian beef at the Wagga Wagga tip.

Mr Cahill took over as Biosecurity Australia CEO in December, and acknowledged that many of the organisation's problems predate his tenure. However, he assured his audience that an internal restructure and an audit of import risk assessment procedures would help deliver improvements in the future.

"We can do better. We should do better and we will," he said.

## Driver negligence blamed for ATV fatalities

By **GRAHAM FULLER**

AUSTRALIA's all-terrain vehicle (ATV) market leader says the debate about their involvement in accidents needs to be placed in context.

Managing director of Honda MPE Stuart Strickland acknowledges that even one fatality linked to an ATV is one too many, but says 99.6 percent of the time ATVs are ridden safely and without incident.

"Per 100,000 vehicles ridden or driven on rural properties, ATVs account for a quarter of the amount of fatalities horse accidents do, and fewer than half the deaths involving car accidents," he said.



"Of the 47 deaths directly linked to ATVs between July 1, 2000 and April 1, 2004, not one person has been killed where the ATV operator was wearing the appropriate safety gear and operating the vehicle properly as per manufacturer's recommendations."

Honda says no helmets were worn in 44 out of the 47 deaths involving ATVs, while

excessive speed (11), carrying a pillion passenger (nine) and overloaded machines (five) were factors in the other ATV-related incidents.

Operated in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, ATV operational risks were dramatically reduced, Mr Strickland said.

Honda's Stupid Hurts campaign is highlighting a number of key messages. They include:

- ATV rider training availability.
- The requirement to use a helmet.
- The need for single operator use only.
- Appropriate age/vehicle size.

Apply now

## Grants for drought recovery projects

ian Government Envirofund 2005 Drought Recovery Round



# BONING ROOM

General manager says operations suspended, not permanently closed

By SHAN GOODWIN  
shan.goodwin@northernstar.com.au

EQUIPMENT from the boning room at the Booyong Export Pig Processing Plant would not be sold off, owners Northern Co-operative Meat Company said yesterday.

The boning room, which just over a year ago was given a Federal Government grant of \$825,000, yesterday wound up operations.

Federal Member for Page Ian Causley said the Federal Government would seek to get the money back if the boning room was gutted.

He said there were provisions in contracts for such grants whereby if a business sold up within two years of receiving funds, the Government may be able to recoup funds.

But general manager of the meat company Gary Burridge said boning operations at the facility had been suspended, not permanently closed down.

He said operations had been 'put on hold' while the company assessed the affect the

importation of raw pig meat into Australia was having on pork producers.

"We have made a large investment there in our own right and we're not looking at having it mothballed indefinitely," he said.

The grant amounted to about 25 per cent of the total capital outlay for the venture.

The company blamed the shutting down of the room, which employed 25 workers, on a lack of supply due to massive increases of raw pig meat into Australia.

Domestic pork producers were unable to compete and were winding down operations, Mr Burridge said.

The disparity in road weight limits between NSW and Queensland had also contributed, he said.

Northern Rivers pork producers say they are operating below the cost of production and have had to, in some cases, cut production in half. At least three have closed down their farming operations.

They said since the Govern-



**BETTER DAYS:** Federal Member for Page Ian Causley, right, at the Booyong Export Pig Processing Plant in 2002 with Peter Caillil.

ment body Bio-Security had decided last year to allow raw pig meat to be brought into Australia, imports had almost doubled.

Combined with the drought, it was seriously threatening Australia's pork industry, they said.

Federal Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran said his Gov-

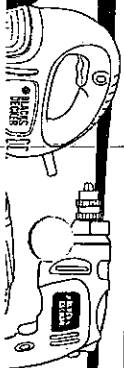
ernment was aware of the difficulties facing some pork producers and processors.

He said the difficulties stemmed largely from the Australian industry becoming more integrated into the world market.

The Government, he said, was committed to making the world trading system fairer.

Mr McGauran said the Government had provided substantial financial grants to the industry to help it adjust to the difficult market and climatic conditions of the past few years.

**What do you think?**  
Phone the Star Feedback line on 6624 3266 or email opinions@northernstar.com.au



**BLACKS**  
RECOVER



**WORKING IT OUT:** A much-relieved Chris Hill (front) starts his first day of work at Sunnybrand Chickens and is pictured with, from left, assistant factory manager Alex Saris, factory manager Simon Carruth, and boning room worker Andreina Aboud.

Picture: JACKLYN WAGNER



**IAROUND:** A week ago things were not good for Chris Hill and Beck George and their five-week-old son Jackson and their 11-year-old son Nick, 11, and Dakota, 4.

# Job offer is a 'blessing'

## Sunnybrand gives retrenched worker a new start

By SHAN GOODWIN  
shan.goodwin@northern  
star.com.au

ONE of the region's largest employers, Byron Bay's Sunnybrand Chickens, has come to the rescue of retrenched meatworker Chris Hill.

After reading of Mr Hill's plight in *The Northern Star*, Sunnybrand's assistant general manager Robyn Holloway offered him a job loading and packing. He started full-time work last night.

Mr Hill was one of 25 workers retrenched when the Northern Co-operative Meat Company was forced to suspend boning operations at its Booyong pig plant last week due to a lack of supply.

He had moved his young family from Toowoomba to

er in search of a lifestyle change.

Yesterday, he said he was counting his blessings.

"Things couldn't have worked out better," he said.

"I'm working the night-shift which is great because it gives me time with the young bloke while he's still little. It's perfect for family life.

"We've had so much support since we got here. People at Bexhill have come up and introduced themselves and told me where to look for work.

"I'm very excited to be in a new industry and I feel really secure, like this area is looking after us."

Sunnybrand employs 330 men and women from throughout the Northern Riv-

er for 90 contractors and 15 Northern Rivers chicken farmers.

Mrs Holloway said Sunnybrand liked to employ local people and were constantly on the lookout for good staff. Chris Hill fitted the bill.

Owned by Byron Bay local families the Gilmores and Langs, Sunnybrand runs at the highest standard of food safety accreditation.

With chicken consumption on the increase, Sunnybrand was moving into value-added products such as roasts, schnitzels and kebabs, Mrs Holloway said.

Meanwhile, all the other workers retrenched from the Booyong pig plant have either taken up work in other areas of the facility or found jobs in Queensland abattoirs.

ALAN HILL TRANSPORT PTY LTD ACN 087 994 036  
T/As Alan Hill Grain Trading  
PO Box 115  
Casino NSW 2470  
ABN 58 087 994 036

Phone 02 6667 5165  
Mobile 0429 626896  
Fax 02 6667 5145  
Email: alanhipt@bigpond.com

## FACSIMILE

To: Annabelle Toohey

Location:

Fax: 66622391

From: Gail Sullivan

Date: 27/11/07

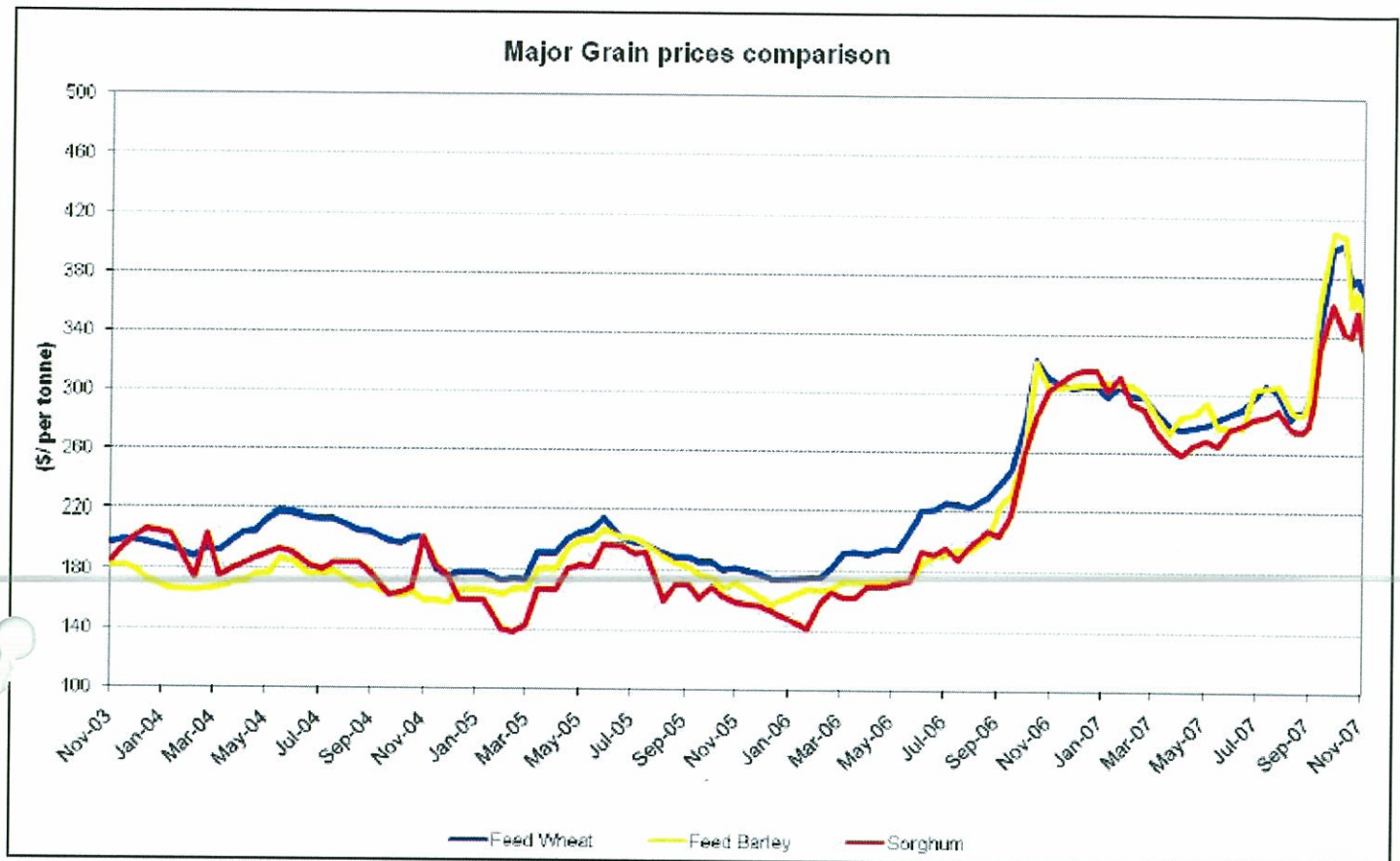
No. of pages (incl cover): 1

Please find below average purchase price of grain for the months of June and November from 2004 to 2007.

Grain	June 04	Nov 04	June 05	Nov 05	June 06	Nov 06	June 07	Nov 07
Wheat	191	138	195	151	200	298	270	377
Sorghum	142	131	162	129	135	250	269	305
Barley	174	125	220	144	166	218	300	340

Hope this helps. If you need any further information please call Alan on 02 66675165.





Source: Eyes and Ears; Market news for the Australian Pork Industry. Issue #257 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007