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Approved by:

Randolph H. Zeitner

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Randolph H. Zeitner

Report Highlights:

Sharply increased female slaughter in the last quarter of CY2000 has slowed rebuilding of the beef herd in Australia. Post expects an increase in beef production of about one percent in CY2001. Cattle prices were strong throughout 2000 with most prices record high in November. Post expects Australian beef exports to increase 1.2 percent to 1,305 TMT (carcase weight) during CY2001. Post forecasts pork production to increase around three percent in CY2001.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
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Executive Summary

While most analysts believe that Australia is in a herd rebuilding phase, data for the last few months of CY 2000 are not supportive of a major increase in inventories. Female slaughter, down about 3 percent for the first nine months of 2000, ended the year down only about one percent. It appears that producers took advantage of record cow prices to market animals many thought would be added to the breeding herd.

Live cattle exports continued to rebound in CY 2000 from the sharp drop-off in 1998. Through the first eleven months of CY 2000, total live cattle exports were 798,025 head, up from the 757,383 head exported during the first eleven months of 1999. The strength of the Australian dollar relative to the Rupiah and other Asian currencies, availability of supply and the continuing recovery of Asian markets will be major factors in export markets for the coming year.

While slaughter numbers were down slightly in 2000, increased slaughter weights led to an increase in beef production of about 1.5 percent. High slaughter levels in the last quarter of the year surprised many as herd rebuilding was not as strong as many expected. Anticipated increases in both slaughter and slaughter weights should result in an increase in beef production of about 1 percent in CY 2001.

Cattle prices were strong throughout 2000 with most prices record high in November. Prices have come down somewhat from these highs, but in the first few weeks of January were still 16-18 percent higher than they were at the start of 2000.

The number of cattle on feed fell 4 percent in the September quarter to 644,000 head. This is still a record number for the September quarter.

Post expects Australian beef exports to increase 1.2 percent to 1,305 TMT (carcase weight) during CY 2001. The Australian dollar has recently gained some strength against the U.S. dollar and the yen and is causing some concern among exporters.

In recent weeks, Australian wool prices have reached three year highs. Strong global demand, particularly from China, have encountered tight supplies leaving fundamentals favorable for the next few months. Continued good prospects for wool prices during 2001 should help to increase sheep numbers. Live sheep exports for the first eleven months of 2000 totaled 4.9 million head, up from the 4.7 million exported during the first eleven months of 1999.

Despite the U.S. safeguard action on Australian lamb, Australian exports of lamb, mutton, and goat meat to the U.S. reached a record high in CY 2000, an increase of some 25 percent over the previous record obtained in 1999.

Post forecasts pork production to increase around 3 percent in CY 2001 as slaughter increases and weights remain stable. Reduced feed grain prices together with improved slaughter prices are primary reasons for increased production expectations.

Animal Numbers, Cattle

PSD Table						
Country	Australia					
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle				(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	26578	26578	26600	26716	27050	27003
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	2155	2155	2200	2170	2250	2174
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	11621	11621	11750	11746	12000	12000
Production (Calf Crop)	9630	9741	9800	9847	10100	9990
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	36208	36319	36400	36563	37150	36993
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	844	844	870	890	950	925
TOTAL Exports	844	844	870	890	950	925
Cow Slaughter	3784	3727	3380	3690	2839	3600
Calf Slaughter	1111	1113	1139	1115	1100	1100
Other Slaughter	3819	3919	3911	3865	4341	4010
Total Slaughter	8714	8759	8430	8670	8280	8710
Loss	50	0	50	0	50	0
Ending Inventories	26600	26716	27050	27003	27870	27358
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	36208	36319	36400	36563	37150	36993
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Production

Inventory

While most analysts believe that Australia is in a herd rebuilding phase, data for the last few months of CY 2000 are not supportive of a major increase in inventories. Female slaughter, down about 3 percent for the first nine months of 2000, ended the year down only about one percent. It appears that producers took advantage of record cow prices to market animals many thought would be added to the breeding herd. However, sustained higher prices and improved pastures are expected to encourage producers to withhold additional animals in 2001. Post expects an increase of about 1.3 percent in the cattle herd during CY 2001.

Live cattle exports continued to rebound in CY 2000 from the sharp drop-off in 1998. Through the first eleven months of CY 2000, total live cattle exports were 798,025 head, up from the 757,383 head exported during the first eleven months of 1999. While the current combination of high domestic prices and limited supply is making it difficult for exporters to fill orders, post expects exports to increase by around 35,000 head in 2001 as the Asian economies continue to grow and exports to the Middle East remain strong.

Exports to Indonesia were especially strong in 2000, up 92 percent from the same period in 1999, more than offsetting the 19 percent decline in export to the Philippines. Exports to these two countries remain far below the records achieved in 1997 when Indonesia imported 425.7 thousand head and the Philippines imported 259.7 thousand head. Exporters indicate that the weakening rupiah has not yet greatly affected trade demand, but that the high cost of cattle has put strains on importers. They note that prices have not yet been fully passed to Indonesian consumers and importers are reaching limits of trade viability. Thus the outlook for continued strong exports to this market are critically dependent on future movements of the exchange rate and domestic prices for live cattle. There is some expectation that exports to the Middle East will increase in 2001, led by the current BSE problems in Europe. This has been a strong market during 2000.

The strength of the Australian dollar relative to the Rupiah and other Asian currencies, availability of supply and the continuing recovery of Asian markets are major factors that will determine live exports in the coming year.

While slaughter numbers were down slightly in 2000, increased slaughter weights led to an increase in beef production of about 1.5 percent. Anticipated increases in both slaughter and slaughter weights should result in another increase in beef production in CY 2001 of about 1.0 percent.

Cattle prices were strong throughout 2000 with most prices record high in November. Prices have come down somewhat from these highs, but in the first few weeks of January 2001 were still 16-18 percent higher than they were at the start of 2000. The Australian Bureau of Resource Economics (ABARE) has forecast the Australian sale yard indicator price of cattle to increase 8.5 percent in 2000-2001 (July/June). This comes on the back of a 9.2 percent increase in 1998-99 (July/June).

The growth in the dairy herd slowed dramatically as producers adjust to deregulation and the new support payment scheme. (See posts latest dairy report AS0040 for more details).

The number of cattle on feed fell 4 percent in the September quarter of 2000 to 644,000 head. This is still a record number for the September quarter. Feedlot capacity at the end of September was estimated at 853,127 head, down about 20,000 head from the September 1999 capacity. This puts capacity utilization for the September quarter at 75 percent. Japan accounts for about 60 percent of grainfed production with the domestic market taking 36 percent and Korea only 3 percent. Queensland currently accounts for about 53 percent of cattle on feed. The continued high level of cattle on feed reflects the availability of low grain prices and firm export prices. Procurement costs for feeder cattle continue to increase and recent strengthening of the Australian dollar are concerns for exporters. The Australian Lot Feeders Association reports that the weaker \$A, which declined some 20 percent against the US dollar during 2000, increased the competitiveness of Australian exports and was a strong factor in the higher placements.

Post expects Australian beef exports to increase about 1.2 percent to 1,305 TMT (carcase weight) during CY 2001. The Australian dollar has recently gained some strength against the U.S. dollar and the yen and is causing some concern among exporters. Recent declines in interest rates in the U.S. could also result in some strengthening of the Australian dollar against the U.S. dollar and could have a significant impact on the bottom line for Australian exporters. Whether the Australian Reserve bank will follow the U.S. lead on interest rates and take some of the pressure off of an increasing Australian dollar is not known for certain at this time, but such an action is expected.

Slaughter Rate

Slaughter rates fell in 2000 as improved seasonal conditions and good prices led to some herd rebuilding. Post forecasts slaughter to increase marginally in 2001. ABARE expects the number of cattle slaughtered during 2000-2001 (July/June) period to ease around 2.2 percent to 8.5 million head.

Although running 3 percent below the previous year's slaughter for the first three quarters of CY 2000, female slaughter increased rapidly in the final quarter and ended the year only 1 percent below the previous years level. ABARE reports that the liquidation phase of the cattle cycle has ended with the rebuilding of the national herd.

Policy

General

The Federal Government unveiled the operating structure for a new producer based red meat company, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), in May, 1998. This body replaces the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation, the Meat Research Corporation, and the Meat Industry Council.

The operating structure of MLA consists of eight business units and three industry service groups. The eight business units are designed to deliver services which address the functional needs of Australia's meat and livestock industries. One business unit addresses innovation in livestock production, another innovation in the processing sector, while others work with industry to deliver improvements in areas such as food safety, meat grading, market access and market information. The work of these business units is supplemented by the activities of three small service groups. These service groups have been constructed around MLA's major funding sources: the Australian cattle industry, the Australian sheep meat industry, and MLA contractual arrangements. The most important contractual arrangements are those with processors and live exporters that ensure adequate funding of activities that are recognized as being of overall industry benefit.

In January 2001, Australia extended the 1996 suspension of British beef imports to include the importation of foods containing beef or beef products from 29 other European countries. (See AS1002 for additional information.) This action was effective on January 8, 2001. A formal certification process is to be established to assess future imports to ensure that they are BSE free.

Australia implemented a voluntary ban on feeding of ruminant material to ruminants following a World Health Organization recommendation in 1996. In 1997 a compulsory ban was enacted by legislation in all states and territories. Bone and bone meal from all countries except New Zealand have been banned since 1966.

Trade

Import Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	No.	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Imports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	102	81		66	4
Others					
Total for Others	0	0	0	0	0
Others not Listed	0	0		0	0
Grand Total	102	81	0	66	4

Export Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	No.	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Exports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	22	21		16	15
Others					
Indonesia	41174	159548		136393	261921
The Philippines	215961	268720		249113	202845
Egypt	116624	241031		213588	182026
Malaysia	43589	65227		60508	52369
Jordan	18128	38127		31013	36730
Brunei	7655	17413		15704	17008
Israel	8719	8416		6191	15995
Japan	17148	12362		11051	13023
Mexico	21106	7701		7701	8003
Palestinian Territories	0	0		0	3116
Total for Others	490104	818545	0	731262	793036
Others not Listed	128070	26416		26105	4974
Grand Total	618196	844982	0	757383	798025

Meat, Beef and Veal

PSD Table						
Country	Australia					
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal				(1000 MT CWE)(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Slaughter (Reference)	8714	8759	8430	8670	8280	8710
Beginning Stocks	57	57	26	26	79	33
Production	1956	1956	1953	1985	1910	2005
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	1	1	3	1	2	1
TOTAL Imports	1	1	3	1	2	1
TOTAL SUPPLY	2014	2014	1982	2012	1991	2039
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	1263	1263	1213	1289	1210	1305
TOTAL Exports	1263	1263	1213	1289	1210	1305
Human Dom. Consumption	725	725	690	690	680	695
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	725	725	690	690	680	695
Ending Stocks	26	26	79	33	101	39
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	2014	2014	1982	2012	1991	2039
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	299	428	290	512	270	512

(NB: Conversion factor for CWE = 1.43)

Production

General

Beef and veal production increased in CY 2000 by about 1.5 percent. High slaughter levels in the last quarter of the year surprised many as herd rebuilding was not as strong as had been expected. Preliminary numbers indicate that producers decided to take advantage of the high prices in November and December to sell cattle many had expected to be retained. For the year, beef production increased as heavier slaughter weights more than compensated for the reduction in slaughter numbers. Slaughter numbers are expected to increase in CY 2001, while slaughter weights will remain relatively high resulting in a 1 percent increase in beef production for the year.

Australian exports of beef to the US increased sharply in 2001. For the first 11 months of the year Australia exported 330,079 MT to the US and for the first time in recent history, the US imported more Australian beef on a weight basis than did Japan. On a value basis, Japan remained the leading destination. With beef prices in the US strong, beef exports are expected to remain strong in CY 2001.

As a result of the slow economic recovery in Japan, Australian beef exports for the first eleven months of 2000 were up only 6,738 MT over the 1999 level for the same months. Australian feedlot placements for delivery to Japan, at 383, 120 head, were up from the September 1999 placement of 348,857 head.

The Korean economy is showing signs of recovery and demand for beef is improving. Cattle on feed destined for this market for the September quarter were 19,937 head, up from the 10,411 head during the September 1999 quarter. Exports to Korea for the first eleven months of 2000 were 73,671, making Korea a distant third export market for Australian beef.

Exporters are cautiously optimistic about CY 2001 prospects and at this point don't anticipate major disruptions to their markets because of BSE developments in Europe.

Trade

Import Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	MT	
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Imports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	0	0		0	14
Others					
New Zealand	1385	1313		1033	923
Japan	0	1		0	0
Indonesia	73	0		0	0
Total for Others	1458	1314	0	1033	923
Others not Listed	169			0	0
Grand Total	1627	1314	0	1033	937

Export Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	MT	
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Exports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	290848	299020		275162	330079
Others					
Japan	327749	319846		286695	293433
Rep. of Korea	36286	80728		74817	73671
Canada	40922	40879		39158	36524
Taiwan	34255	35182		32302	26279
The Philippines	20930	21767		19816	14637
Indonesia	1985	12639		10802	14394
Malaysia	6970	7257		6757	7314
United Kingdom	9614	8213		7967	5817
Mexico	4907	4083		3521	5479
Hong Kong	7242	3970		3509	4686
Total for Others	490860	534564	0	485344	482234
Others not Listed	100473	49765		46710	33827
Grand Total	882181	883349	0	807216	846140

Animal Numbers, Sheep

PSD Table						
Country	Australia					
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Sheep				(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
TOTAL Beginning Stocks	117091	115456	117191	115693	118321	116496
Ewes, Beginning Stocks	56600	55638	56250	56250	0	56812
Production (Lamb Crop)	45300	45000	45000	45000	0	45000
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	162391	160456	162191	160693	118321	161496
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	4724	5077	5300	4900	0	5000
TOTAL Exports	4724	5077	5300	4900	0	5000
Ewe Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lamb Slaughter	16270	16392	16000	18050	0	18230
Other Slaughter	14577	14190	14610	14075	0	13980
TOTAL Slaughter	30847	30582	30610	32125	0	32210
Loss	9629	9104	7960	7172	0	6808
Ending Inventories	117191	115693	118321	116496	0	117478
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	162391	160456	162191	160693	0	161496
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Production

General

In recent weeks, Australian wool prices have reached three year highs. Strong global demand, particularly from China, have encountered tight supplies leaving fundamentals favorable for the next few months. Continued good prospects for wool prices during 2001 should help to increase sheep numbers. While favorable seasonal conditions and relatively attractive lamb prices are strong forces for increased lamb production, strong competition for animals will likely limit the increase in lamb and mutton meat production to about 1.6 percent.

Live sheep exports for the first eleven months of 2000 totaled 4.9 million head, up from the 4.7 million exported during the first eleven months of 1999. Trade with Saudi Arabia (which was suspended in 1990) resumed during 1999 and through November of 2000 exports were 490,732 head. The middle east countries continue to dominate this trade.

Trade

Import Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	No.	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Sheep		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Imports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	0	0		0	0
Others					
New Zealand	0	12		12	0
Total for Others	0	12	0	12	0
Others not Listed	0	0		0	0
Grand Total	0	12	0	12	0
Export Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	No.	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Sheep		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Exports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	0	0		0	4
Others					
Kuwait	1433996	1249634		1161465	1377248
UAE	1288508	979452		901118	759460
Jordan	836964	1070170		1070170	666210
Saudi Arabia	0	0		0	490732
Oman	476445	424371		386468	479657
Bahrain	399740	465444		435044	354752
Qatar	361538	281208		251421	276208
Egypt	38031	164054		155302	248576
Mexico	83579	102204		102204	107588
Malaysia	22912	19867		16474	34209
Total for Others	4941713	4756404	0	4479666	4794640
Others not Listed	108508	320899		223150	84463
Grand Total	5050221	5077303	0	4702816	4879107

Meat, Lamb, Mutton and Goat

PSD Table						
Country	Australia					
Commodity	Meat, Lamb, Mutton and Goat				(1000 MT CWE)(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Slaughter (Reference)	14577	30582	14610	32125	0	32210
Beginning Stocks	10	10	6	3	0	8
Production	622	623	633	664	0	675
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	632	633	639	667	0	683
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	375	389	380	409	0	412
TOTAL Exports	375	389	380	409	0	412
Human Dom. Consumption	251	241	259	250	0	262
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	251	241	259	250	0	262
Ending Stocks	6	3	0	8	0	9
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	632	633	639	667	0	683
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	31	52	33	71	0	73

(NB: Conversion factor for CWE = 1.47)

Production

General

Lamb and mutton production increased sharply in CY 2000 and is expected to continue increasing, although at a slower rate, in CY 2001. The sharp increase in numbers of animals available for slaughter resulted in reductions in lamb and mutton prices throughout the year. ABARE forecasts a decrease in the saleyard price of lamb of almost 5 percent in 2000-2001 (July-June).

Despite the U.S. safeguard action on Australian lamb, Australian exports of lamb, mutton, and goat meat to the U.S. reached a record high of over 45,000 MT in CY 2000, an increase of over 35 percent on the previous record obtained in 1999. Exports to the US are expected to again remain strong in CY 2001, but an anticipated increase in the strength of the Australian dollar could slow exports. Heavy lamb export prices for November 2000 were 4.5 percent higher than the prices received in November 1999. Domestic mutton prices recently have been over 50 percent higher than year earlier levels, due to high export demand and strong interest in wool sheep from graziers. Strong prices are expected to continue in 2001, with ABARE forecasting mutton saleyard prices to increase about 13 percent in 2000/2001 (July/June).

Since the US decision, the MLA has mounted a strong domestic promotion program for lamb. With around 70 percent of lamb consumed domestically, the increase in domestic consumption has helped to remove the strong increase in production. It is expected that domestic consumption will increase only slightly in CY 2001.

The export market was very strong during CY 2000 with lamb exports of an estimated 112,000 tons, up from the 1999 record by about 25 percent. Exports to Mexico were up almost 40 percent to 12,000 tons, while exports to South Africa were up over 50 percent to 12,500 tons. Exports are expected to continue strong in CY 2001 particularly to the United States, United Kingdom, and South Africa. Exporters are mostly concerned about the recent strengthening of the Australian dollar and strength in lamb prices since the beginning of 2001.

The US remains a major market for Australian mutton, taking about 8 percent of exports or about 14,500 tons in 2000. As mutton is expected to remain competitive in the US market, mutton exports to the US are forecast to increase in 2001.

Policy

In response to the US safeguard decision, the Australian Government offered relief to lamb producers through a two year assistance package amounting to A\$ 12 million. The package offers two types of assistance. The first is a direct financial contribution, with the Federal Government paying half of the compulsory levy currently paid by producers. The cost is estimated at A\$9 million. The second is an industry development program and includes programs such as: enhancing industry performance, improving lamb quality, building demand for lamb, infrastructure development and encouraging on farm productivity and innovation.

The GOA asked the WTO to assess whether the U.S. safeguard action conforms with WTO rules. A WTO panel established to examine that issue has ruled that parts of the U.S. action were inconsistent with WTO rules and obligations. The U.S. has appealed that decision and requested an appellate panel to review the panel's ruling. A ruling by the appellate panel is expected in the late spring of 2001.

Trade

Import Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	MT	
Commodity	Meat, Lamb, Mutton and Goat		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Imports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	0	0		0	0
Others					
New Zealand	11	290		290	382
Taiwan	8	0		0	0
Total for Others	19	290	0	290	382
Others not Listed	74	45		45	80
Grand Total	93	335	0	335	462
Export Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	MT	
Commodity	Meat, Lamb, Mutton and Goat		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Exports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	36039	35458		31293	42286
Others					
South Africa	32945	37812		34108	45066
Mexico	16916	20296		18402	26261
Saudi Arabia	20031	22237		19817	20683
Papua New Guinea	17573	18906		17598	19380
Japan	17062	15508		14017	15113
Taiwan	16631	16814		14886	14554
United Kingdom	12894	12755		11876	12620
UAE	12298	12598		11045	11753
Malaysia	7563	8697		8150	9085
Singapore	8297	8967		7945	7955
Total for Others	162210	174590	0	157844	182470
Others not Listed	49714	54271		47494	56464
Grand Total	247963	264319	0	236631	281220

Animal Numbers, Swine

PSD Table						
Country	Australia					
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine				(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
TOTAL Beginning Stocks	2626	2626	2587	2433	2736	2490
Sow Beginning Stocks	309	307	314	314	324	324
Production (Pig Crop)	4999	4845	5050	5114	5300	5300
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	7625	7471	7637	7547	8036	7790
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	1	1	1	37	1	1
TOTAL Exports	1	1	1	37	1	1
Sow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER SLAUGHTER	5037	5037	4900	5020	5200	5200
Total Slaughter	5037	5037	4900	5020	5200	5200
Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Inventories	2587	2433	2736	2490	2835	2589
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	7625	7471	7637	7547	8036	7790
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Production

General

ABARE forecasts that breeding sow numbers will increase 2.9 percent during the period 2000-2001 (July/June) due to the better prices and low feed grain prices. Australian prices are expected to increase during 2001 supported by strengthening Asian demand and strong world prices.

Trade

Import Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	No.	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Imports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	0	0		0	0
Others					
Total for Others	0	0	0	0	0
Others not Listed	0	0		0	0
Grand Total	0	0	0	0	0

Export Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	No.	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Exports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	18	28		28	1242
Others					
Fiji	0	0		0	35800
The Philippines	1236	742		188	213
India	0	157		157	34
Hong Kong	170	182		182	27
Total for Others	1406	1081	0	527	36074
Others not Listed	23	17		17	
Grand Total	1447	1126	0	572	37316

Meat, Swine

PSD Table						
Country	Australia					
Commodity	Meat, Swine				(1000 MT CWE)(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Slaughter (Reference)	5037	5037	4900	5020	5200	5200
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	362	362	360	364	375	375
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	28	28	35	36	30	39
TOTAL Imports	28	28	35	36	30	39
TOTAL SUPPLY	390	390	395	400	405	414
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	37	37	45	47	45	53
TOTAL Exports	37	37	45	47	45	53
Human Dom. Consumption	353	353	350	353	360	361
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	353	353	350	353	360	361
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	390	390	395	400	405	414
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

(NB: Conversion factor for CWE = 1.25)

Production

General

Pork production is forecast by ABARE to increase around 3% during 2000-2001 (July/June) as slaughtering increases while slaughter weights remain stable. Reduced feed grain prices together with improved slaughter prices are forecast to lead to further production increases during the last half of CY 2001.

As part of an A\$ 24 million Federal Government adjustment package, funds were provided for the development of an export marketing group known as the Confederation of Australian Pork Exporters (CAPE). CAPE is responsible for assisting pigmeat exporters in developing new markets. One of CAPE's significant activities is to assist in the development of Singapore as an export market. Recent media reports indicate that CAPE aims to more than double exports to Singapore by 2002. This has been aided by Singapore banning the importation of pigmeat from Malaysia due to the outbreak of Nipah Virus in that country in 1999.

In Singapore, Australia has concentrated on expanding sales of chilled pork through intensive marketing campaigns. Almost 98 percent of Australia's exports to Singapore are airfreighted in the form of chilled carcasses. Exporters expect continued growth in this market although they express concerns about the possible appreciation of the Australian dollar and its impact on exports. ABARE expects overall pork exports to increase 1.5 percent in 2000-2001 (July-June).

In January 2001, Australia released the issues paper for the Import Risk Assessment on uncooked pig meat. Comments on that paper must be submitted by March 22, 2001. A draft IRA is not expected until sometime in 2002. The IRA is a global initiative and includes product from the U.S.

Trade

Import Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	MT	
Commodity	Meat, Swine		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Imports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	0	0		0	0
Others					
Denmark	0	5321		3786	17238
Canada	7450	16808		15219	14931
New Zealand		41		2	47
Total for Others	7450	22170	0	19007	32216
Others not Listed	1	12			12
Grand Total	7451	22182	0	19007	32228

Export Trade Matrix					
Country	Australia		Units:	MT	
Commodity	Meat, Swine		Partial Begin	Jan	
			Partial End	Nov	
Exports for:	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Full	Partial	Partial
U.S.	79	61		38	1
Others					
Singapore	55	15625		13350	22426
Japan	4383	4697		4384	6292
New Zealand	2450	1833		1787	1883
Germany	1067	1575		1523	967
Rep. of Korea	489	747		718	950
France	855	1172		1129	914
Hong Kong	734	1061		985	769
The Netherlands	569	733		667	278
Taiwan	114	352		321	180
China	32	25		25	173
Total for Others	10748	27820	0	24889	34832
Others not Listed	2593	1798		1645	860
Grand Total	13420	29679	0	26572	35693