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Agricultural Situation

PC Invites Further Submissions to Pork Safeguards Inquiry

2008

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Report Highlights:

The Productivity Commission (PC) has invited further submissions for consideration in the case for safeguard action against imports of pigmeat; the due date for submissions is February 29, 2008. Instructions for making submissions are provided on the PC's website: www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/pigmeatsafeguards.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

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The final report of the safeguards inquiry must be completed by the end of March 2008. The accelerated report was released by the Australian government of December 20, 2007 (GAIN Report AS 7076). In the accelerated report, the PC found that while Australian pig producers are suffering serious injury, it appears to be due primarily to increases in feed grain prices, not increased imports. Because the PC considered "that evidence of causation from increased imports to serious injury is wanting" it did not consider whether there are critical circumstances warranting the imposition of provisional measures. The determination against provisional action does not rule out a recommendation for safeguard measures in the final report, to be completed at the end of March 2008.

In response to the release of the accelerated report, Australian Pork Limited (APL), issued a statement indicating that Australian pork producers were "in shock". APL's CEO Andrew Spencer said he was very disappointed with the findings. "APL, along with hundreds of Australian pork producers, are baffled that the PC has chosen not to see the link between the record levels of pig meat imports and the worst producer profitability crisis in living memory," Mr. Spencer said. He added, "The PC findings will result in another round of producer exits from those that were taking a 'wait and see' approach to their current situations." Press reports Mr. Spencer said APL would make a submission to the Commission.

Recent Reports from FAS/Canberra

The reports listed below can all be downloaded from the FAS website at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>.

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
AS8001	Impact of Grain Prices on GOA Policy	01/11/08
AS7076	Productivity Commission Release Accelerated Report into Pigmeat Safeguards	12/21/07
AS7075	Bulk Wheat Export Applications	12/13/07
AS7074	Potato Report	12/11/07
AS7072	Ag Down Under Vol. 14	12/06/07
AS7071	GM Moratoria to be Lifted in Two States	11/29/07
AS7070	Cotton Quarterly Update	11/29/07
AS7069	Ag Down Under Vol. 13	11/26/07
AS7068	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Report	11/21/07
AS7067	Retail Sector Report	11/08/07
AS7066	Citrus Annual	11/07/07
AS7065	Ag Down Under Vol. 12	11/02/07
AS7063	Dairy & Products Annual	10/24/07
AS7062	Issues Paper – Safeguards Inquiry into Imports of Pig Meat	10/24/07
AS7061	Govt. Announces Safeguards Inquiry into Imports of Pig Meat	10/22/07
AS7060	ALP Wheat Marketing Proposal	10/15/07
AS7059	Ag Down Under Vol. 11, 2007	10/15/07
AS7058	Export Wheat Commission Established	10/15/07
AS7057	Sugar Semi-Annual	10/10/07