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ABIAB Import Conditions Review
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
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Submission to Import Industry Advice Notice 60-2016 - Animal based retorted goods for human consumption update

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is the national representative body for Australian pig producers. It is a producer-owned, not-for-profit company combining marketing, research & innovation and policy development to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry. APL works in close association with key industry and government stakeholders.

APL welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Import Industry Advice Notice 60-2016 - Animal based retorted goods for human consumption update.

The removal of import permits for animal based retorted goods increases the biosecurity risk to Australia. Currently, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is aware of an intended import from the point of application for a permit and has the power to refuse the import permit.

Removing the requirement for import permits not only reduces oversight of imported goods until arrival on-shore, but opens an avenue for canned and/or retorted meat products to reach Australia's shores that do not comply with Australia's requirements for cooking pork to the required temperature and time as specified in the Pork Biosecurity Risk Assessment (BIRA). Pork products that do not meet this requirement pose enormous biosecurity risks to the Australian pork industry.

Any potential biosecurity risk is of concern to the Australian pork industry as it currently enjoys a high herd health status, with freedom from some of the world's worst pig diseases. Along with governments, the Australian pork industry works diligently to maintain this status both nationally and at a farm-level. Biosecurity is our comparative advantage in the global pork trade – and Australian pork attracts a premium because of its reputation as an exporter of safe food.

Should the Australian Government proceed, APL suggests increased scrutiny of imported product for compliance purposes to ensure these products comply with the Pork BIRA.

For any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Edington on 02 6270 8832 or Jessica.Edington@australianpork.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Deb Kerr
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