The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be partly revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents will constitute the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Arrangement (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure).

1For replies to the statistical parts, see IMC/STAT/5.
Australia is the world's largest exporter of beef and veal. The Australian cattle industry is based on range feeding of grass fed cattle and the industry receives little in the way of domestic support or assistance. However, due to the important part played by the industry in Australia's economy, strict measures have been taken to maintain its disease-free status.

**Overall Policy Objectives**

Policies relating to the Australian cattle industry form an integral part of overall policies for the rural sector generally. The industry operates essentially in a free market situation where levels of production, consumption, exports and prices are determined according to the interaction of supply and demand. The Government aims to foster an economic environment within which cattle producers can adjust their production levels to meet available demand on domestic and export markets at fair and remunerative price levels. An important function of the Government in this area is to make available to producers detailed information on the market situation and outlook, both domestically and overseas, to assist them in making informed production decisions.

Direct government involvement in the industry is limited. The Commonwealth Government has a general regulatory role with respect to overseas trade. It provides assistance to the cattle industry to facilitate structural adjustment processes and it also contributes towards disease control programs, export inspection costs and the funding of scientific and economic research into factors affecting production, processing and marketing in the industry. A limited range of indirect assistance measures is also available. More detailed information is provided below.
1. Policies and Measures affecting Production

(a) Price Policies and Related Measures

Australian cattle producers receive no price or income guarantees. Similarly there are no stabilisation schemes for beef. The majority of cattle are sold by auction although direct transactions between producers and buyers are also common, either in the form of on-farm sales or through the consignment of stock to meat works where producers are paid on a carcase weight and grade basis. Prices received by producers are determined by demand on the Australian and overseas markets and the level of Australian supply.

Australian producers can alleviate income instability to some extent by taking advantage of tax averaging provisions which are available to all primary producers. These provisions include the Income Equalisation Scheme under which a maximum of 60% of a producer's income can be paid into a fund. No income tax is paid on these deposits in the year they are lodged but an income tax liability arises when the deposits are repaid to the producer.

(b) Non-Price Measures

General

Assistance can be made available to the industry under the Rural Adjustment Scheme, primarily in the form of loans at concessional rates of interest, to facilitate structural adjustment within the industry. The over-riding objective
of the Scheme is to help restore the economic viability of those farms and farmers with the capacity to maintain viability once achieved. Assistance is provided for debt reconstruction, farm build-up, farm improvement, and carry-on finance. Rehabilitation and household assistance is also provided to alleviate personal hardship where a producer is obliged to leave the industry.

Intermittent financial assistance is also given on a short term basis to meet specific industry problems. For example, between September 1977 and September 1978 beef producers were eligible for a grant of $10 per head of cattle owned (to a maximum of 200 head) in order to assist with disease control and husbandry procedures during a time of severe recession in the industry.

Credit Facilities

Cattle producers can benefit from special credit facilities available to the rural industry generally through the Commonwealth Development Bank and the Primary Industry Bank of Australia.

The Commonwealth Development Bank was established in January 1960 as part of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation to supplement traditional sources of development finance for both primary producers and industrial undertakings where credit would not otherwise have been available on reasonable terms and conditions. The Bank's main criterion when providing credit assistance is the prospect for success of the venture rather than the amount of security available. The Bank also provides finance on hire-purchase terms for vehicles, equipment and machinery. The Bank's funds come mainly from the Commonwealth Savings Bank, increases in its own reserves and some additional capital from the Commonwealth.
More recently, in July 1978 the Primary Industry Bank of Australia was established to provide a facility for long-term lending to primary producers, thus augmenting existing forms of credit from banks and other lenders. The Primary Industry Bank operates as a refinance Bank, borrowing funds for lending to existing financial institutions which are approved prime lenders and which in turn on-lend the funds to individual primary producers. It is not, therefore, a direct lender and refinance loans are a matter for negotiation between the primary producer and his Bank on the normal commercial basis with economic viability continuing to be the primary consideration. The Commonwealth Government may make funds available to enable the Bank to provide a source of funds to approved lending institutions under conditions which will enable them to offer their clients long-term credit under terms more favourable than would otherwise be practicable.

Input Subsidies

Limited input subsidies are available to all farming industries in Australia, including the cattle industry, in the form of subsidies on fertilizer use. The current rates are $20 per tonne and $12 per tonne for nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers respectively.

Animal Health

The Australian Government is contributing resources to major test and slaughter programs to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in Australian cattle. The current program aims to achieve Provisionally Free Status (less than 0.2% cattle prevalence) by 1984 and large areas of Australia are already completely free.
(2) **Policies and Measures Affecting Domestic Consumption**

Consumer prices and therefore consumption of meat in Australia, are determined by market forces. Promotion of meat on the domestic market is undertaken by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation.

(3) **Policies and Measures Affecting International Trade**

(a) **General**

All Australian exporters of bovine (and ovine) meat and livestock must be licensed by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation, a statutory authority. It is funded by industry levies on livestock slaughterings and exports of live animals.

The main functions of the Corporation are to encourage, assist, promote and control the export of bovine (and ovine) meat and livestock from Australia. The Corporation may issue directions to licensed exporters on a wide range of matters including directions relating to classes and grades, destinations, quantities and minimum sale prices of exports.

The Corporation also has power to exercise quality control as needed to protect Australia's international trading image and has the power to negotiate shipping freight rates and issue directions to exporters concerning maximum freight rates and approved carriers.

In addition the Corporation has the power to engage in export trading of meat and livestock in its own right. To date the Corporation has not used its trading powers although the former Australian Meat Board did negotiate direct sales to the USSR in 1970/71 and 1975.
Where quantitative restrictions exist in a particular market, the Corporation can, at its discretion, operate export control arrangements to the market. Control schemes in the past have applied to the USA, Canada, the EEC and Japan. These schemes were designed to facilitate orderly export marketing and to ensure that exporters do not exceed the restraint or quota requirements in these markets. At present, control schemes operate for high quality beef and buffalo meat to the EEC.

(b) **Veterinary Standards**

All beef prepared for export must be processed in an establishment registered for export by the Australian Bureau of Animal Health (BAH). The Bureau is responsible for the development and maintenance of Australian hygiene standards with respect to livestock and meat, the inspection of all meat produced in export establishments and the certification of exported meat in accordance with requirements negotiated with overseas countries. The Bureau also accepts responsibility for animal health in Australia at both national and international levels.

(c) **Measures at the Frontier**

(i) **Customs Tariff:**

Import duties are levied at the levels specified in Annex A.

A 2 percent temporary revenue duty has been applied since 1 July 1979, to all tariff items normally admitted free of duty and not subject to tariff rate bindings or bilateral trade agreements at this level.
(ii) Import Measures at Tariff Line Level

As a member of the GATT since its inception, Australia has placed considerable emphasis on avoiding measures contrary to the spirit of the Agreement. Apart from the temporary duty referred to above, Australia has not imposed quantitative restrictions or any form of levy on imported bovine meat and livestock.

At the time of importation sales tax is collected on imported goods at the same level as is charged on domestic goods at the point of wholesale distribution.

Australia has acceded to the CCC Nomenclature Convention and is so obliged to observe the requirements of the CCCN in its tariff.

There are no bilateral commitments or tariff rate bindings on imports of bovine meat and livestock into Australia.

(iii) Export Measures at Tariff Line Level

None.

(iv) Description of Internal Regulations

Commerce Requirements

Regulations applying under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act require that articles used for food must have a trade description. This is required to be in the English language and should comprise details of the country in which the good is produced, a true description of the good and a statement of the metric weight or measure of the good. As indicated in Annex A product imported under tariff items 02.01, 02.06 and 16.02 require such a marking.
Quarantine Requirements

In view of its isolation geographically, Australia enjoys a relative disease-free status compared with many other beef producing and consuming countries. In order to prevent the entry of exotic diseases, the importation of live animals and animal products is permitted only subject to compliance with the provisions of the quarantine legislation.

The Australian Department of Health is responsible for the administration of quarantine regulations under the Quarantine Act 1908. Many foodstuffs of animal origin are prohibited from importation unless the permission in writing from the Minister for Health has been granted. Importation is subject to restriction in the case of certain countries or made subject to certain conditions according to the disease status of the country wishing to export to Australia and the degree of assessed quarantine risk associated with the animal or animal product concerned.

In the specific case of bovine meat and livestock (see Annex B), uncooked beef may be imported only from Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America. Cooked beef can be imported from any country subject to it being contained in a hermetically sealed container of a type approved by the Director of Quarantine, Canberra.

Currently, live cattle are permitted into Australia only from New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. After a 6 month residency period in New Zealand
cattle not conceived in New Zealand may also be imported into Australia. It is proposed that the Animal Quarantine Station on Cocos (Keeling) Islands scheduled for completion in April 1981 will be used initially for the importation of cattle from Western Europe, Canada and the United States of America.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff Item</th>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>General Tariff</th>
<th>Preferential Tariff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.02.000</td>
<td>Live Animals of the Bovine Species</td>
<td>Free, &amp; 2% DC: Free</td>
<td>Free, &amp; 2% PNG: Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restrictions: Prohibited Imports Quarantine (Animals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.01.000</td>
<td>Meat &amp; Edible Offals of animals falling within 01.01, 01.02, 01.03 or 01.04, Fresh, Chilled or Frozen</td>
<td>Free, &amp; 2% DC: Free</td>
<td>Free, &amp; 2% PNG: Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Chilled&quot; means reduced in temperature to around 0°C without being frozen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Frozen&quot; means cooled to below the products freezing point until it is frozen throughout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restrictions: Commerce Marking Quarantine (Animals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.06.000</td>
<td>Meat &amp; Edible Meat Offals (except poultry Liver) salted, in brine, dried or smoked (excludes bacon, ham &amp; other pig meat)</td>
<td>Free, &amp; 2% DC: Free</td>
<td>Free, &amp; 2% PNG: Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restrictions: Commerce Marking Quarantine (Animals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex. 16.02</td>
<td>Other Prepared or Preserved Meat or Meat Offal - Brawns jellies, pastes &amp; the like</td>
<td>21% DC: 10% PNG: Free</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- in airtight containers (excluding pet food)</td>
<td>7.5% &amp; $0.08 per kg DC: Free PNG: Free</td>
<td>4% &amp; $0.032 per kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARIFF ITEM</td>
<td>COMMODITY</td>
<td>RATES OF DUTY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex 16.02</td>
<td>Meat extracts &amp; meat juices</td>
<td>General Tariff: Free, &amp; 2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(contd.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Preferential Tariff: Free,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; 2% PNG: Free</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restrictions: Commerce Marking</td>
<td>Quarantine (Animals)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regulation 82

82.(1) Meat or edible parts of animals (other than uncooked meat of bovine animals from Canada or the United States, cooked meats and cooked edible parts of animals contained in prescribed containers and animal casings) shall not be landed unless there has been produced to the Chief Quarantine Officer:

(a) a certificate by a Government veterinary surgeon certifying:

(i) that the goods were derived from animals slaughtered for human consumption in the country in which the certificate is issued;

(ii) that the animals from which the goods were derived were subjected to ante mortem and post mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter and were free from contagious and infectious disease;

(iii) that the goods were not exposed to infection prior to exportation;

(iv) in the case of meat and edible parts of animals that the diseases foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and swine fever do not exist in the country in which the certificate is issued;

(v) that the cargo compartment in which the goods are transported was, before the goods were loaded into it, thoroughly cleaned with a two per centum solution of sodium hydroxide or a four per centum solution of sodium carbonate (soda ash); and

(vi) that the cargo compartment referred to in the last preceding sub-paragraph did not contain meat other than meat of Australian or New Zealand origin; and

(b) a declaration by the master of the vessel in which the goods were transported:

(i) that no meat, other than meat of New Zealand origin, was placed in the cargo compartment referred to in the last preceding paragraph after the compartment had been cleaned in the manner referred to in sub-paragraph (vi) of the last preceding paragraph;
(ii) that that cargo compartment was locked immediately after the goods including meat of New Zealand origin, if any, were stowed; and

(iii) that that cargo compartment was only opened after the vessel had arrived in Australia.

(1.AA) Sub-paragraphs (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (a), and paragraph (b), of the last preceding sub-regulation do not apply to and in relation to meat or edible parts of animals transported in a vessel that trades exclusively between Australia and New Zealand.

(1.AAA) Subject to sub-regulation (1.AAB), uncooked meat of bovine animals from Canada or the United States of America shall not be landed unless the Chief Quarantine Officer for the animals division of quarantine in the State or Territory where it is proposed to land the meat has certified, by writing under his hand, that he is satisfied that:

(a) the meat was derived from an animal that was slaughtered for human consumption in that country;

(b) the animals were slaughtered, or the meat was packed, on a specified date or dates;

(c) the animals from which the meat was derived were subjected to ante mortem and post mortem veterinary inspection and were found to be free of contagious and infectious disease;

(d) the animals were bovine;

(e) the meat does not include meat of any animal other than a bovine animal;

(f) the meat was not exposed to contamination prior to exportation;

(g) foot and mouth disease and rinderpest do not exist in that country;

(h) where the meat has been comminuted, no segment of the meat has a volume of less than 125 cubic centimetres;

(j) the abattoir or other establishment in which the meat was processed or packed did not, at the time the meat was processed or packed, hold:
(i) any ruminant or pig imported from a country other than Canada or the United States for immediate slaughter; or

(ii) any imported meat other than meat imported from Canada or the United States, as the case may be, Australia or New Zealand in accordance with the law of the country into which that meat was imported;

(k) the abattoir or other establishment in which the meat was processed or packed:

(i) is licensed, registered or otherwise considered acceptable by the Australian Government, for the purpose of exporting meat to Australia;

(ii) has been allocated a number commonly known as a veterinary control number by the government of the country from which the goods were exported; and

(iii) that number is stamped on, or shown on an adhesive label stuck to the meat or the packing in which the meat is contained;

(l) the meat was transported to Australia:

(i) in a cargo compartment or container system unit that:

(A) was, before the meat was loaded into it, thoroughly cleaned with a 2 per cent solution of sodium hydroxide or a 4 per cent solution of sodium carbonate;

(B) did not, after it was so cleaned, contain any other meat; and

(C) was, after the meat was loaded into it, sealed with the official seal of the appropriate department of the government of the country from which the meat was exported and was incapable of being opened, after being so sealed, without breaking that seal; or

(ii) by air otherwise than in a container system unit and the packing containing the meat was sealed with the official seal of the appropriate department of the government of the country from which the meat was exported and was:
(A) fresh packing material incapable of being opened, after being so sealed, without breaking that seal; and

(B) enclosed in an outer transparent polythene wrapping; and

(m) the seal on the cargo compartment or container system unit, or on the packing containing the meat, referred to in paragraph (l) has not been broken.

(1.AAB) Where:

(a) the seal on the cargo compartment or container system unit in which uncooked meat of bovine animals from Canada or the United States was transported to Australia or, in the case of such meat transported to Australia by air otherwise than in a container system unit, on the packing containing the meat, has been broken; or

(b) the cargo compartment, the containing system unit or the packing was not sealed as described in paragraph (1.AAA)(l)

the provisions of sub-regulation (1.AAA) shall be deemed to have been complied with, notwithstanding that the Chief Quarantine Officer referred to in that sub-regulation has not certified under that sub-regulation in relation to the official seal on, or the sealing of, the cargo compartment, the container system unit or the packing in pursuance of paragraphs (1.AAA) (l) and (m), if the provisions of that sub-regulation have been complied with in every other respect and the Director of Quarantine has certified, by writing under his hand, that he is satisfied that the meat so transported to Australia has not been subject to contamination.

(1.AAC) Uncooked meat of a bovine animal from Canada or the United States landed in Australia shall not be released from quarantine until the expiration of the period of 21 days commencing on:

(a) the date on which the animal was slaughtered; or

(b) if that date is not certified under sub-regulation (1.AAA) in respect of that meat, the date on which the meat was packed.

(1.AB) Animal casings shall not be landed unless there has been produced to the Chief Quarantine Officer a certificate by a Government veterinary surgeon certifying:

(a) that the goods were derived from animals slaughtered for human consumption in the country in which the certificate is issued;
(b) that the animals from which the goods were derived were subjected to ante mortem and post mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter and were free from contagious and infectious disease; and

(c) that the goods were not exposed to infection prior to exportation.

(1.A) Subject to sub-regulation (1.C) of this regulation, cooked meats and cooked and edible parts of animals, other than cooked meat, and cooked edible parts of birds (including poultry), contained in prescribed containers shall not be landed unless there has been produced to the Chief Quarantine Officer:

(a) a certificate by a Government veterinary surgeon certifying:

(i) that the goods were derived from animals slaughtered for human consumption in the country in which the certificate is issued;

(ii) that the animals from which the goods were derived were subjected to ante mortem and post mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter and were free from contagious and infectious disease; and

(iii) that the goods were not exposed to infection prior to exportation; and

(b) a declaration by the manufacturer stating:

(i) that, in the course of manufacture, every portion of the contents of the prescribed containers has been heated to a temperature of not less than 100° Centigrade; and

(ii) the temperature of the heat used for that purpose and the length of time for which it was used,

which has been endorsed by a Government veterinary surgeon or other responsible Government officer in the country of manufacture with a certificate certifying that he is familiar with the process of manufacture of the goods and that he has no reason to doubt the truth of the declaration.

(1.B) Subject to the next succeeding sub-regulation, cooked meat, and cooked edible parts, of birds (including poultry) contained in prescribed containers shall not be landed unless there has been produced to the Chief Quarantine Officer:
(a) a declaration by the manufacturer stating:

(i) that, in the course of manufacture, every portion of the contents of the prescribed containers has been heated to a temperature of not less than 100° Centigrade; and

(ii) the temperature of the heat used for that purpose and the length of time for which it was used; and

(b) a certificate, endorsed on the declaration, by a Government veterinary surgeon or other responsible Government officer in the country of manufacture certifying that he is familiar with process of manufacture of the goods and that he has no reason to doubt the truth of the declaration.

(1.C) Cooked meats or cooked and edible parts of animals referred to in either of the last two preceding sub-regulations shall not be landed unless the Chief Quarantine Officer is satisfied that the temperature of the heat used and the length of time for which it was used to heat the contents of the prescribed containers, as shown in the declaration under this regulation relating to the cooked meats or cooked and edible parts, is sufficient to ensure that every portion of the contents of the prescribed containers has been heated to a temperature of not less than 100° Centigrade.

(2) This regulation shall not apply to:

(a) *

(b) fish; or

(c) samples of meat, edible parts of animals and animal casings imported subject to the permission of the Chief Quarantine officer and under such conditions as he directs.

(3) In this regulation, "prescribed container" means:

(a) a hermetically sealed can or tin; or

(b) a hermetically sealed container of a type approved by the Director of Quarantine.

82. A dried blood and dried blood albumen from Canada, New Zealand or the United States shall not be landed unless the following documents have been delivered to the Chief Quarantine Officer:
(a) a declaration by the manufacturer made before a Magistrate that the
dried blood or dried blood albumen was prepared from the blood of
animals, other than pigs, slaughtered for human consumption under
the supervision of a Government veterinary surgeon; and

(b) a certificate by the supervising Government veterinary surgeon that
he is familiar with the process of manufacture of the dried blood
or dried blood albumen and that he has no reason to doubt the
truth of the declaration referred to in paragraph (a) of this
regulation.
Part G.2. Notification of Policy Changes

Amendments to the Quarantine (Animals) Regulations of the Australian Quarantine Act 1908 were proclaimed on 6 February 1980 permitting entry of uncooked meat of bovine animals, fresh chilled or frozen but not prepared, from Canada or the United States of America, subject to adequate quarantine precautions.
PART H

Bilateral, Plurilateral and Multilateral Commitments

Within the Tokyo Round of GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Australia reached agreements on beef with the USA, Japan, Canada and the EEC. These commitments are of a global nature and are open to Contracting Parties on an MFN basis. Details of these undertakings are provided in the submissions by the countries concerned.

Specific concessions negotiated with Australia are:

- Levy-free access for 5,000 tonnes (product weight) of fresh, chilled or frozen high-quality beef to the EEC.

- Levy-free access for 2,250 tonnes (bone-out basis) of frozen buffalo meat to the EEC.