Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1) 2002 No. 136

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

STATUTORY RULES 2002 No. 136

Issued by Authority of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1)

Paragraph 28(3)(b) of the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* (the Industry Act) provides that the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA) may vary a meat export quota on application by the holder and on payment of the prescribed fee.

Section 74 of the Act provides that the Governor-General may make regulations prescribing matters required or permitted to be prescribed by the Industry Act, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the Industry Act.

The Quota Administration and Statistics Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry manages the allocation, monitoring and reporting of Australia's country-specific meat export quotas. The fee applied for the variation of quota, as agreed with the red meat industry, recovers the costs associated with the administration of the quotas on a fee for service basis.

The adoption of a management regime for the export of beef to the United States of America will require recovery of the prescribed fee from quota holders for the grant of quota. To permit the recovery of the fee to occur, the quota year applying to beef exports to the United States of America must be defined in the regulation. It is proposed to define this quota year as 1 January to 31 December.

Regulation 1 provides for the citation of the regulations.

Regulation 2 provides that the regulations will commence on gazettal.

Regulation 3 provides that Schedule 1 amends the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Regulations 1998*.

Schedule 1 (1) provides definitions to the terms "quota year" as used in the proposed regulations.

These regulations commenced on gazettal.