



14 March 2018

Position Statement

Importation of Chicken Meat

Australia has strict protocols in place governing the importation of raw and cooked chicken meat.

The Australian government has a comprehensive, science-based approach to determining whether a commodity should be imported, and under what conditions importation can occur, in order to protect Australia's favourable pest and disease status. Any decision to restrict imports of a commodity must be consistent with Australia's international obligations such as those imposed by the World Trade Organisation *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, and the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade*.

The ACMF supports this rigorous, science-based approach to the assessment of the risks involved in importing foods, and concurs that quarantine is a vital tool to protect industry and consumers.

The importation protocols established to protect Australia's poultry industries and population from foreign diseases were developed following a thorough import risk analysis, conducted by the Australian government, which identified, assessed and developed strategies to manage the risks associated with the importation of chicken products.

To date poultry producers in other countries have been unable to meet these strict requirements. The exception to this is chicken produced in New Zealand, which has a similar favourable disease status to Australia. The only other imports currently permitted are small volumes of processed chicken meat products that have been fully retorted (ie cooked to high temperature in their container), such as sometimes found in canned chicken, soups or animal foods.

These imported products account for only a small amount (less than 1%) of the chicken consumed in Australia.

The strict restrictions on imports mean that:

- Australian chickens are protected from the entry of disease.
- Australian poultry more generally, as well as our wild birds, are protected from the entry of avian diseases
- Consumers are protected from the impacts of exotic avian diseases.
- Consumers can be confident that chicken meat sold in Australia is grown to high animal welfare standards.
- Chickens consumed in Australia are only treated with products registered and approved for use in Australia.

The ACMF supports using only domestically-grown chicken meat as the best way to protect Australian consumers, poultry and the environment from exotic diseases. Current government regulations ensure chicken meat raised and sold in Australia is of a very high production standard for quality and safety.
