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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Presented and read a first time

Indonesian Beef Export Protection Bill 2026

No. , 2026

A Bill for an Act to protect Australian cattle producers and meat processors from foreign rules that shift slaughter and value-adding offshore, and for related purposes

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Schedule 1—Displacement markets

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act is the Indonesian Beef Export Protection Act 2026.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day after it receives the Royal Assent.

3 Objects

The objects of this Act are:

(a) to keep the slaughter and further processing of Australian cattle in Australia;

(b) to stop foreign import rules from rewarding the export of live cattle over the export of Australian meat;

(c) to recover, for Australian processors and regional plants, the margin lost when cattle are exported live into a market that burdens boxed beef and not live cattle;

(d) to make the cost of that shift public.

4 Definitions

In this Act:

boxed beef means beef or veal exported as meat, including carcass, bone-in, boneless and processed beef.

displacement market means a country listed in Schedule 1, or declared under section 8.

export parity price means the free-on-board price for that class of cattle to the displacement market, less a published deduction for fair export yard, freight-to-port and selling costs, as set by legislative instrument.

feeder or slaughter cattle means cattle exported to be fed or slaughtered, and does not include registered breeding cattle exported under a breeding protocol.

processing margin means the amount per head determined under section 10.

5 Act binds the Crown

This Act binds the Crown in right of the Commonwealth.

6 Relationship with other laws

This Act is in addition to the Export Control Act 2020 and the Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997. A livestock export licence or permit is of no effect to the extent it is inconsistent with this Act.

Part 2—Displacement markets

7 Indonesia

Indonesia is a displacement market.

Note: *Law 33/2014 on Halal Product Assurance, applied to food and beverage from 18 October 2026, requires certification, segregation, labelling and importer registration for boxed beef. Published industry and departmental material states that the live cattle trade is not subject to those requirements.*

8 Further declarations

The Minister must, by legislative instrument, declare a country a displacement market if satisfied that its import rules:

(a) impose certification, segregation, labelling, storage, transport or religious-compliance costs on Australian boxed beef; and

(b) do not impose equivalent costs on live feeder or slaughter cattle from Australia; and

(c) thereby make live export commercially preferable to slaughter in Australia.

The Minister must not revoke a declaration unless both conditions in paragraphs (a) and (b) have ceased.

9 Prohibited facilitation

The Commonwealth must not provide grant funding, concessional finance, export insurance, feasibility support or official sponsorship for a feedlot, abattoir or processing plant in a displacement market to the extent the plant is intended to feed or slaughter Australian cattle.

Part 3—Charge

10 Processing margin

The Minister must, by legislative instrument, set a processing margin per head for each class of feeder or slaughter cattle. The margin must equal the Secretary’s estimate of the amount that would have been paid to Australian labour, Australian service providers and Australian plant owners if the animal had been slaughtered and boned in Australia. The first determination must be made within 30 days of commencement. Until then the margin is $350 per head.

11 Displacement charge

A charge is imposed on each head of feeder or slaughter cattle exported to a displacement market. The amount is the processing margin for that class. The exporter is liable. The charge is payable before the export permit is issued.

12 Use of charge

Charge revenue must be paid into the Domestic Processing Account. Money in the Account may be spent only on:

(a) capital grants to export-registered beef processing plants in Australia, with priority to northern Australia and to plants that increase kill or boning capacity;

(b) the cost of administering this Act.

Money in the Account must not be paid to a foreign government, a foreign halal certification body, or a feedlot or plant outside Australia.

Part 4—Australian processors first

13 Right of first refusal

An exporter applying for a permit to export feeder or slaughter cattle to a displacement market must, at least five business days before the application is decided, lodge with the Secretary the number, class, weight range, location and export parity price of the cattle. The Secretary must publish the notice to export-registered processors the same day.

14 Acceptance

A processor may accept all or part of the line at the export parity price, plus fair road freight from the point of sale to the processor’s plant. Acceptance is binding. The Secretary must refuse the permit for every head accepted.

15 No avoidance

A permit must be refused if the Secretary is satisfied the transaction was structured to defeat section 13, including by related-party contracts, artificial breeding claims, or shipment through a third country.

Part 5—Indonesia quota

16 Cap

The number of feeder and slaughter cattle that may be exported to Indonesia in a calendar year must not exceed:

(a) in the first full calendar year after commencement, the number exported to Indonesia in 2024;

(b) in each of the next four years, 85 per cent of the previous year’s cap.

After that, the cap remains at the year-five level unless raised under section 17.

17 Only one way to raise the cap

The Minister may, by legislative instrument, pause or raise the cap only if the Minister certifies that, for the following year, the certification, segregation, labelling and port-entry burden on Australian boxed beef into Indonesia is no greater than the burden on live feeder and slaughter cattle. A certificate is a legislative instrument and may be disallowed.

Part 6—Transparency and foreign control

18 Quarterly report

Within 30 days of each quarter the Secretary must publish: head exported live to each displacement market; boxed beef tonnes to that market; charge collected; estimated Australian kills foregone; estimated regional jobs foregone; and known compliance cost per tonne of boxed beef.

19 Foreign arrangements

An arrangement between the Commonwealth and a foreign halal authority, including the July 2026 arrangement with BPJPH, has no effect in Australian law until laid before each House for 15 sitting days and not disallowed. The arrangement must not require Australian plants to segregate product, alter shifts, or admit foreign religious auditors except under Australian law.

20 Labelling

Beef placed on the Australian market must not be described as Australian beef if the animal was slaughtered outside Australia. “Born in Australia” is permitted only with the country of slaughter in the same type size.

Part 7—Enforcement

21 Civil penalty

Exporting in breach of a refused permit, the quota, or the charge is a civil penalty: the greater of 5,000 penalty units and three times the processing margin on the cattle. A person must not structure a shipment to avoid the charge or the quota. The same penalty applies.

22 Licence

The Secretary must suspend a livestock export licence if the holder has not paid a charge due under this Act, or has breached section 15 or 21, until the breach is remedied.

Schedule 1—Displacement markets

1 Indonesia