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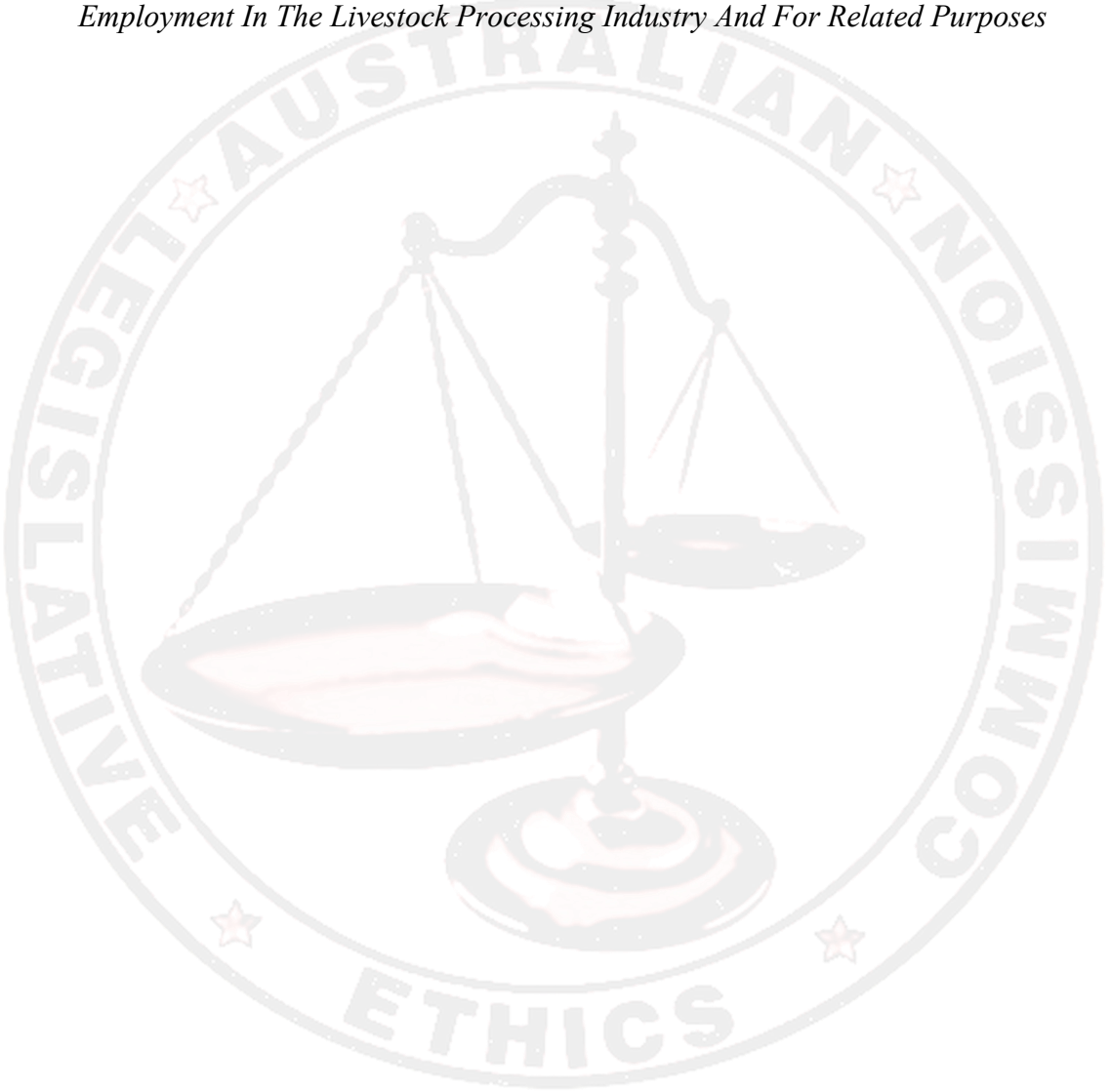
The Parliament Of The Commonwealth Of Australia

House Of Representatives

Australian Meat Industry Competition And Sovereignty Bill 2026

No. 2026

A Bill For An Act To Protect Competition Australian Ownership Public Integrity And Regional Employment In The Livestock Processing Industry And For Related Purposes



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The Parliament Of Australia Enacts

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

(1) This Act is the Australian Meat Industry Competition and Sovereignty Act 2026.

2 Commencement

(1) Sections 1 and 2 commence on the day this Act receives the Royal Assent.

(2) Parts 2 to 9 commence on a day fixed by Proclamation.

(3) If a provision covered by subsection (2) does not commence within 6 months after Royal Assent, it commences on the day after that period.

3 Objects

The objects of this Act are:

(a) to preserve effective competition for Australian livestock;

(b) to prevent excessive concentration and foreign control of strategic meat-processing capacity;

(c) to ensure that public and producer-levy funding delivers measurable benefits to Australian producers and regional communities;

(d) to establish transparent livestock pricing, fair trading and independent carcase grading;

(e) to protect viable regional processing capacity and employment;

(f) to expand Australian finishing, processing, manufacturing and exports of finished meat products; and

(g) to protect food security and the long-term sovereignty of Australia's livestock value chain.

4 Simplified outline of this Act

(1) This Act establishes a Livestock Markets Commissioner and a public register of processor ownership, capacity, livestock purchases, public assistance and regional market shares.

(2) Dominant processors are prevented from acquiring further strategic assets. Excessive holdings may be subject to an orderly structural separation and divestment process.

(3) New strategic processing assets must ordinarily be Australian-controlled. Foreign-controlled corporate groups are subject to national and regional capacity limits.

(4) A fit and proper corporation test applies to access to public assistance, government procurement, acquisitions and strategic processing licences.

(5) Public funding and producer levies are redirected towards producer benefit, independent competition, open-access technology and Australian-owned regional capacity.

(6) A mandatory Livestock Fair Trading Code, independent carcase grading and enforceable producer remedies are established.

(7) Regional plant closures, publicly funded automation and Commonwealth meat procurement are subject to Australian jobs and public-value requirements.

5 Definitions

In this Act:

ACCC means the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

acquisition includes a direct or indirect acquisition of shares, assets, voting power, management rights, beneficial ownership, contractual control or another interest capable of conferring material influence.

Australian-controlled means that at least 51 per cent of the beneficial ownership and voting power is held by Australian citizens or Australian-controlled entities and that effective management control is exercised in Australia.

Commissioner means the Livestock Markets Commissioner appointed under section 11.

corporate group includes a corporation, its ultimate holding company, subsidiaries, related bodies corporate, associated entities and persons acting jointly or under a common commercial arrangement.

effective processing capacity means the practical annual slaughter or processing capacity of a facility, having regard to plant, labour, accreditation, operating patterns and reasonable seasonal utilisation.

foreign-controlled means controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more foreign persons within the meaning of the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975.

livestock means cattle, calves, sheep, lambs and goats and includes another prescribed species.

livestock processing business includes an abattoir, feedlot integrated with a processor, livestock-buying business, boning room, rendering facility, cold store, wholesale meat business or related meat-manufacturing undertaking.

processor means a constitutional corporation that carries on a livestock processing business in Australia.

producer means a person who raises livestock in Australia for sale.

producer levy funds means amounts raised from a primary industries levy or charge relating to livestock or red meat, together with Commonwealth matching payments and earnings on those amounts.

public assistance includes a grant, loan, guarantee, tax concession, matching payment, research contribution, subsidised service, procurement preference or transfer of publicly funded intellectual property.

regional livestock procurement market means a geographic market determined by the ACCC by reference to practical transport distance, species, buyer access, plant capacity and seasonal trading conditions.

serious corporate misconduct has the meaning given by section 37.

strategic meat-processing asset means an asset used, or reasonably capable of being used, for livestock acquisition, slaughter, processing, rendering, cold storage or export-accredited meat manufacturing.

6 Act binds the Crown

(1) This Act binds the Crown in right of the Commonwealth and, so far as the legislative power of the Parliament permits, the Crown in each of its other capacities.

(2) The Crown is not liable to prosecution for an offence under this Act.

7 Extraterritorial operation

(1) This Act applies to conduct outside Australia by an Australian corporation and to overseas conduct by a foreign-controlled corporate group that affects an Australian livestock market, an Australian producer or a decision under this Act.

8 Constitutional operation and just terms

(1) This Act applies to the fullest extent supported by the corporations, trade and commerce, external affairs, territories, taxation, grants and incidental powers of the Constitution.

(2) If the operation of this Act would result in an acquisition of property otherwise than on just terms, the Commonwealth must provide reasonable compensation.

(3) If the Commonwealth and a person do not agree on compensation, the person may institute proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia.

9 Concurrent operation of other laws

(1) This Act is additional to, and does not limit, the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975, the Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997 or a law of a State or Territory capable of operating concurrently.

Part 2 Livestock Markets Commissioner And Public Register

10 Livestock Markets Commissioner

(1) There is to be a Livestock Markets Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner is an independent statutory office holder within the ACCC for administrative purposes.

11 Appointment and term

(1) The Governor-General must appoint the Commissioner by written instrument on the recommendation of the Minister after consultation with producer organisations.

(2) The Commissioner holds office for a term not exceeding 5 years and may be reappointed once.

(3) A person is not eligible if, during the previous 5 years, the person was a director, officer, employee or paid adviser of a dominant livestock processor.

12 Functions of Commissioner

The functions of the Commissioner are:

(a) to monitor livestock markets, processor ownership and effective capacity;

(b) to maintain the register required by section 14;

(c) to investigate complaints by producers and workers;

(d) to administer the Livestock Fair Trading Code and independent grading scheme;

(e) to assess public-benefit, integrity, closure and Australian Jobs Test requirements;

(f) to advise the ACCC, the Treasurer and the Minister; and

(g) to perform functions conferred by this Act or another law.

13 Independence and resources

(1) The Commissioner is not subject to direction in relation to a particular investigation, designation, complaint, funding assessment or enforcement recommendation.

(2) The ACCC must provide the Commissioner with staff and resources reasonably necessary to perform the Commissioner's functions.

14 National livestock markets register

(1) The Commissioner must maintain a free, searchable online register.

(2) The register must identify, for each processor and corporate group:

(a) beneficial ownership and controlling interests;

(b) operating and practical processing capacity by facility and species;

(c) livestock purchase volumes and regional market shares;

(d) feedlot, rendering, cold-storage and wholesale interests;

(e) public assistance received during the previous 10 years;

(f) plant closures and material capacity reductions;

(g) integrity determinations and enforceable remediation conditions; and

(h) other prescribed market information.

15 Annual competition and producer outcomes report

(1) The Commissioner must give the Minister an annual report on concentration, farm-gate competition, price transparency, grading accuracy, processing capacity, foreign control, regional employment and the producer benefit delivered by public assistance.

(2) The Minister must table the report in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving it.

16 Information gathering notices

(1) The Commissioner may, by written notice, require a processor, funding recipient or related entity to provide information, records or reasonable assistance relevant to the administration of this Act.

(2) A notice must state its purpose, the information required, the time for compliance and review rights.

(3) Legal professional privilege is not abrogated.

(4) An individual may not refuse to provide information on the ground of self-incrimination, but the information and any information obtained as a direct or indirect consequence are not admissible against the individual in criminal proceedings other than proceedings for false or misleading information.

17 Protection of confidential information

(1) The Commissioner must protect personal information and genuinely confidential commercial information except to the extent disclosure is necessary for transparency, enforcement, parliamentary accountability or the performance of a statutory function.

(2) Commercial confidentiality must not be used to conceal public assistance, ownership, aggregate market power, plant capacity, enforcement action or measurable project outcomes.

Part 3 Processor Concentration And Acquisitions

18 Dominant livestock processor designation

(1) The ACCC must designate a corporate group as a dominant livestock processor if a threshold in section 19 is met.

(2) The ACCC may designate a corporate group below a numerical threshold if its vertical integration, control of essential facilities, buying practices or geographic position gives it substantial and durable power over producers in a regional livestock procurement market.

19 Dominance thresholds

(1) The thresholds are:

(a) 20 per cent of national cattle-processing capacity;

(b) 20 per cent of national purchases of livestock within a species;

(c) 30 per cent of effective processing capacity within a regional livestock procurement market; or

(d) another lower threshold prescribed on the recommendation of the ACCC following public consultation.

(2) Interests held by a corporate group, associates, joint ventures and persons acting in concert must be aggregated.

20 Notice and review of designation

(1) Before making a designation, the ACCC must give the affected corporate group the proposed reasons and at least 28 days to respond.

(2) A designation must be published, reviewed at least every 2 years and is reviewable by the Administrative Review Tribunal.

21 Acquisition freeze for dominant processors

(1) A dominant livestock processor must not acquire an interest in another strategic meat-processing asset or livestock processing business.

(2) An agreement entered into in contravention of subsection (1) is unenforceable to the extent of the contravention.

22 Mandatory notification of processing acquisitions

(1) A person must notify the ACCC before acquiring a material interest in an Australian livestock processing business or strategic meat-processing asset, regardless of transaction value.

(2) The acquisition must not complete until the ACCC grants clearance or the statutory decision period expires.

23 Competition and producer access test

(1) The ACCC must refuse clearance if the acquisition would materially increase buyer concentration, remove an actual or potential competitor, increase practical transport distances, weaken farm-gate bargaining power, reduce export-accredited capacity or create a material risk of future closure.

(2) Claimed efficiencies may be considered only if independently verified, enforceable and substantially shared with producers, workers and regional communities.

24 Conditions on clearance

The ACCC may impose conditions including:

(a) asset divestment;

(b) continued operation and minimum capacity;

(c) open access to yards, cold stores or export accreditation;

(d) employment and producer-supply guarantees;

(e) separation of livestock buying from grading; and

(f) independent monitoring and reporting.

25 National processing concentration review

(1) Within 12 months after commencement, the ACCC must complete a national review of red-meat processing ownership, effective capacity, regional procurement markets, vertical integration and barriers to entry.

(2) The review must recommend whether any corporate group requires structural separation or managed divestment.

26 Structural separation plans

(1) If a corporate group exceeds a threshold in section 19 or holds assets that substantially lessen competition, the ACCC may require the group to submit a structural separation plan.

(2) A plan must create viable independent competitors, preserve operating facilities and accreditation, protect employees and prevent transfers to related or dominant entities.

27 Federal Court divestment orders

(1) On application by the ACCC, the Federal Court may order the disposal of specified shares or assets where divestment is necessary to restore effective competition or comply with this Act.

(2) The Court must set a reasonable period, approve an independent sale process and prevent disposal to a related entity or another dominant processor.

(3) A divestment order must operate consistently with section 8.

28 Anti-avoidance

(1) A person must not avoid this Part through asset leasing, management agreements, nominee ownership, joint purchasing, warehousing arrangements, corporate reconstruction, deliberate closure or another scheme whose substance confers control or removes capacity.

Part 4 Australian Control And Foreign Ownership

29 Australian control of new strategic assets

(1) A new strategic meat-processing asset must be at least 51 per cent Australian-owned and Australian-controlled before it begins operating.

(2) A change that causes the asset to cease being Australian-controlled requires approval under this Part.

30 Foreign-controlled capacity limits

(1) A foreign-controlled corporate group must not control more than:

(a) 15 per cent of national cattle-processing capacity;

(b) 15 per cent of national sheep-processing capacity; or

(c) 25 per cent of effective capacity in a regional livestock procurement market.

(2) The ACCC must calculate interests on a corporate-group basis and publish the methodology.

31 Managed transition for existing holdings

(1) A foreign-controlled corporate group exceeding a limit at commencement must submit a compliance plan within 12 months.

(2) The group must comply within 7 years unless the Federal Court, on application by the ACCC, determines that a shorter period is reasonably required to protect competition.

(3) For at least 120 days before a divested facility is offered more broadly, it must be offered as an operating concern to eligible Australian producer cooperatives, employee ownership groups, independent processors, regional investors and public development corporations.

32 Conditional approval for genuinely new capacity

(1) The Treasurer may approve a foreign-controlled investment in genuinely new capacity on the joint recommendation of the ACCC and Commissioner.

(2) Approval may be given only if the investment:

(a) does not acquire or eliminate an existing competitor;

(b) materially increases processing capacity and producer choice;

(c) passes the corporate integrity and Australian Jobs Tests;

(d) includes enforceable operating, employment and open-access commitments; and

(e) is in the national interest.

(3) An approval is limited to 10 years and must be reviewed before renewal.

33 Advice on foreign investment decisions

(1) The Treasurer must obtain and publish advice from the ACCC and Commissioner before deciding an application concerning a strategic meat-processing asset under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975.

34 Australian opportunity period for strategic sales

(1) Before a strategic meat-processing asset is sold to a foreign-controlled person, the vendor must conduct a transparent Australian opportunity process for at least 120 days.

(2) The process must provide eligible Australian bidders with equivalent due-diligence information and a genuine opportunity to make a commercial offer.

35 Foreign ownership anti-avoidance

(1) Control must be determined by substance and includes economic dependence, veto rights, financing conditions, supply agreements, board influence, beneficial ownership and coordinated conduct.

Part 5 Corporate Integrity And Public Funding

36 Fit and proper corporation test

(1) A corporate group must pass the Fit and Proper Corporation Test before it may receive public assistance, obtain a Commonwealth meat-procurement contract, acquire a strategic asset, receive foreign-investment approval or hold a prescribed strategic processing licence.

(2) The Commissioner must assess the applicant, its ultimate holding company, related entities, controlling shareholders, beneficial owners, directors and senior executives.

37 Serious corporate misconduct

(1) Serious corporate misconduct includes, during the previous 15 years:

(a) bribery, corruption, fraud or false accounting;

(b) food-safety fraud or falsification of inspection or export records;

(c) price fixing, cartel conduct or bid rigging;

(d) serious or repeated environmental offending;

(e) deliberate or repeated workplace-safety breaches, wage theft, forced labour or child labour;

(f) obstruction or deception of a regulator; or

(g) repeated or deliberate breaches of public-funding conditions.

(2) The Commissioner may consider Australian or foreign convictions, guilty pleas, civil penalty findings, admissions, enforceable undertakings and regulatory settlements, but must distinguish proven conduct from untested allegations.

38 Integrity determination and consequences

(1) The Commissioner must give the applicant notice of adverse material and a reasonable opportunity to respond before making a determination.

(2) A corporate group that fails the test is:

(a) ineligible for public assistance and Commonwealth procurement;

(b) ineligible to acquire an additional strategic asset;

(c) subject to enhanced monitoring and an independently supervised remediation plan; and

(d) liable to licence conditions, suspension or divestment for serious or repeated misconduct.

39 Duration and review of integrity determination

(1) An adverse determination ordinarily applies for 10 years.

(2) The Commissioner may reduce the period only after independently verified remediation, restitution and governance reform.

(3) A determination is reviewable by the Administrative Review Tribunal.

40 Public-benefit assessment

(1) Public assistance for a red-meat project must not be approved unless an independent assessment identifies measurable producer and public benefits.

(2) The assessment must address:

(a) competition for livestock and expected farm-gate outcomes;

(b) regional employment created, displaced or transferred;

(c) additional Australian-owned capacity and manufacturing;

(d) ownership and accessibility of resulting technology;

(e) plant closure and automation risks; and

(f) enforceable delivery, reporting and recovery terms.

41 Disclosure of publicly supported projects

(1) Before approval, the responsible entity must publish the recipient, related corporate participants, facility, amount, purpose, intellectual-property arrangements, expected producer benefit and employment impact.

(2) Actual expenditure and outcomes must be published annually and at project completion.

42 Corporate funding cap

(1) A corporate group must not receive, directly or indirectly, more than 5 per cent of annual Commonwealth-supported red-meat research and development funding.

(2) Plant-specific funding must not be provided to a dominant livestock processor or a corporate group that fails the integrity test.

43 Open access to publicly funded technology

(1) Technology developed wholly or partly with public assistance or producer levy funds must be available to eligible Australian-owned small and medium processors on royalty-free or reasonable cost-recovery terms.

(2) Exclusive control may be approved only for the shortest period necessary to commercialise the technology and never for more than 3 years.

44 Funding recovery and operating conditions

(1) An agreement for public assistance must permit recovery, with interest, if promised producer, capacity or employment outcomes are materially undelivered, information was false or a funded facility closes or materially reduces operations within 10 years.

45 Producer control of levy expenditure

(1) Active levy-paying producers must directly elect a majority of persons responsible for approving the expenditure of producer levy funds.

(2) A current director, officer, employee or paid adviser of a dominant processor must not occupy a producer-designated position.

(3) At least 70 per cent of livestock producer levy expenditure must directly support on-farm productivity, animal health, biosecurity, drought resilience, producer-controlled market information, independent grading, producer bargaining or Australian-owned processing alternatives.

46 Funding integrity audit

(1) The Auditor-General must conduct and table an audit of Commonwealth and producer-levy funding provided during the previous 10 years through red-meat research, development, marketing and regional programs.

(2) The audit must identify corporate recipients, related entities, intellectual-property ownership, commercial savings, employment effects, plant closures and measurable producer benefit.

Part 6 Livestock Fair Trading And Independent Grading

47 Australian Livestock Fair Trading Code

(1) The Minister must, within 6 months after this Part commences, make a mandatory Australian Livestock Fair Trading Code by legislative instrument.

(2) The Code applies to processors, commission buyers, livestock agents, saleyard operators and prescribed digital trading platforms.

48 Minimum requirements of Code

The Code must require processors to:

(a) publish complete price grids, discounts and premiums;

(b) record the date and time of every change;

(c) provide written supply terms before delivery;

(d) disclose payment calculations and the reason for every downgrade;

(e) provide carcase images, measurements and grading data to the producer;

(f) pay the producer within 14 days unless the producer expressly agrees to a shorter settlement arrangement;

(g) retain transaction and grading records for 7 years; and

(h) provide access to independent dispute resolution.

49 Prohibited livestock trading conduct

A processor must not engage in:

(a) retrospective price reductions or undisclosed deductions;

(b) unilateral changes to agreed supply terms;

(c) retaliation against a producer who complains, compares prices or assists an investigation;

(d) collusive buyer conduct or market allocation;

(e) misleading grading or discriminatory treatment;

(f) a contract term preventing lawful price comparison or producer collective bargaining; or

(g) a requirement that a producer surrender a statutory right or remedy.

50 Independent carcase grading scheme

(1) The Commissioner must establish a nationally consistent independent carcase grading scheme.

(2) Final payment grades must be determined or verified by an accredited independent grader or approved objective measurement system subject to independent audit.

(3) A measurement system funded, owned or controlled by a processor is not independent merely because it has industry accreditation.

51 Producer access and reassessment

(1) A producer is entitled without charge to all images, measurements, data and reasons used to determine payment.

(2) A producer may request an independent reassessment within 21 days.

(3) Where the original grade was materially wrong, the processor must pay the corrected amount, interest and reasonable reassessment costs.

52 Systemic grading errors

(1) If a processor's grading error rate exceeds the prescribed threshold, the Commissioner may require an audit of past payments and compensation of affected producers.

(2) The Commissioner must publish processor grading accuracy statistics at least annually.

53 Independent dispute resolution

(1) The Commissioner must provide or approve a low-cost dispute-resolution scheme capable of making binding payment, interest, compensation and corrective-publication orders up to the prescribed limit.

(2) Participation does not prevent a producer from commencing court proceedings unless a binding settlement is reached.

54 Collective bargaining protection

(1) Producer cooperatives and bargaining groups may collectively negotiate livestock supply terms without contravening Part IV of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, subject to safeguards prescribed to prevent coercion or market manipulation.

Part 7 Regional Processing Capacity And Australian Jobs

55 Australian Regional Processing Fund

(1) The Australian Regional Processing Fund is established.

(2) The Fund may provide grants, concessional loans and equity investment from money appropriated by the Parliament, up to an aggregate of $1.5 billion during the first 10 financial years.

56 Eligible projects

Assistance may support:

(a) new, reopened, independent, producer-owned, mobile or modular abattoirs;

(b) regional cold storage, boning, packaging and export accreditation;

(c) rendering, offal, hides, leather, pet-food and pharmaceutical inputs;

(d) worker housing, accredited training, energy and water infrastructure; and

(e) Australian-branded finished-product manufacturing and export development.

57 Eligibility and priority

(1) An applicant must ordinarily be at least 75 per cent Australian-owned and must pass the integrity test.

(2) Priority must be given to projects that:

(a) create an additional effective livestock buyer;

(b) operate in a region with insufficient competition;

(c) are owned by producers, workers or regional investors;

(d) replace viable capacity that has closed;

(e) create long-term regional employment; and

(f) export finished products rather than raw livestock.

(3) A dominant processor is ineligible for assistance from the Fund.

58 Regional plant closure notice

(1) The owner of a strategic processing facility must give at least 12 months' written notice of a proposed closure or material capacity reduction to employees, producers, the Commissioner, local government and the Minister.

(2) The Commissioner may approve a shorter period only for insolvency, immediate safety risk or another exceptional circumstance that makes continued operation impracticable.

59 Viability assessment and operating sale

(1) Before closure, the owner must permit an independent viability assessment and offer the facility for sale as an operating concern through a transparent process lasting at least 9 months.

(2) During the sale period the owner must preserve essential plant, licences, records, export accreditation and reasonable access for due diligence.

(3) The owner must not demolish, strip, deliberately disable or permanently mothball the facility to remove competing capacity.

60 Australian Jobs Test

(1) Every publicly supported processing, technology or automation project must pass an Australian Jobs Test.

(2) Assistance must be refused where the project's primary effect is to eliminate Australian employment, transfer work offshore, close another viable regional facility or concentrate production without a proportionate and enforceable public benefit.

61 Automation safeguards

A publicly supported automation project must include:

(a) an independently verified net employment impact assessment;

(b) consultation with affected workers;

(c) redeployment and accredited retraining;

(d) regional employment guarantees; and

(e) annual reporting of jobs created, changed and eliminated.

62 Commonwealth procurement preference

(1) Commonwealth procurement rules must, so far as consistent with law and Australia's binding international obligations, give preference to meat raised, processed and manufactured in Australia and supplied by an Australian-controlled business under transparent and fair producer arrangements.

(2) A corporate group that fails the integrity test is ineligible for a Commonwealth meat-supply contract.

63 Finished-product export strategy

(1) The Minister must publish and update every 3 years a strategy to expand exports of Australian chilled and frozen boxed meat, premium grass-fed products, regional brands, offal, hides, rendered products, pet-food ingredients and other finished goods.

(2) The strategy must preserve live-export competition until commercially viable domestic processing alternatives are operating in affected regions.

Part 8 Compliance Enforcement And Remedies

64 Civil penalty provisions

(1) A provision identified as a civil penalty provision is enforceable under Part 4 of the Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014.

(2) Sections 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 34, 42, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 58, 59, 60 and 61 are civil penalty provisions.

65 Maximum pecuniary penalties

(1) For a corporation, the maximum penalty for a contravention of a civil penalty provision is the greatest of $50 million, 3 times the value of the benefit obtained, or 10 per cent of the corporate group's Australian turnover during the 12 months before the contravention.

(2) For an individual, the maximum penalty is 5,000 penalty units.

(3) Each day of a continuing contravention constitutes a separate contravention.

66 Injunctions enforceable undertakings and disqualification

(1) The Federal Court may grant an injunction, accept or enforce an undertaking, disqualify a director, suspend acquisition rights or impose compliance, monitoring or licence conditions.

67 Compensation and redress

(1) The Federal Court may order compensation to producers, workers or competing businesses that suffered loss because of a contravention.

(2) The Court may order repayment of public assistance, corrective publication, regrading, payment of interest or another order necessary to repair the harm.

68 False information destruction of records and obstruction

(1) A person commits an offence if the person knowingly provides materially false or misleading information, destroys or conceals a required record, intimidates a complainant or obstructs an authorised investigation.

(2) Penalty: imprisonment for 5 years or 2,000 penalty units, or both.

69 Accessorial and executive liability

(1) A person involved in a contravention is liable in accordance with the principles applying under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

(2) An executive is liable only if the executive knowingly authorised, directed or materially assisted the contravention.

70 Whistleblower protection

(1) A person must not dismiss, injure, threaten, discriminate against or otherwise disadvantage a person because the person made or proposed to make a protected disclosure concerning a contravention.

(2) The protections and remedies in Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act 2001 apply, with necessary modifications.

71 Enforcement responsibility

(1) The ACCC is the principal enforcement agency for this Act.

(2) The Commissioner may investigate, issue compliance notices and refer matters to the ACCC, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Australian Federal Police or another regulator.

Part 9 Review Reporting And Miscellaneous

72 Administrative review

(1) A person whose interests are affected may apply to the Administrative Review Tribunal for review of a prescribed designation, integrity determination, funding ineligibility decision, acquisition condition or closure decision.

73 Independent statutory review

(1) The Minister must cause an independent review of this Act after 3 years and every 5 years thereafter.

(2) The review must examine competition, farm-gate prices, producer bargaining power, processing capacity, foreign ownership, regional jobs, public-funding outcomes and exports of finished products.

(3) The report must be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days after the Minister receives it.

74 Delegation

(1) The Commissioner may delegate a function or power, other than the power to make an integrity determination or recommend structural separation, to an SES employee of the ACCC with appropriate expertise.

75 Rules

(1) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, make rules prescribing matters required or permitted by this Act or necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

(2) Rules must not create an offence, impose imprisonment, provide powers of arrest or detention, impose a tax, appropriate money or directly amend the text of this Act.