

11 September 2020

Country of Origin Food Labelling Review Panel
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
GPO 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via: originlabelling@industry.gov.au

Dear Review Panel

Country of origin food labelling review

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the review of country of origin food labelling.

RSPCA Australia supports clear country of origin labelling for all animal-derived food including meat, dairy and egg products. We note the current country of origin labelling requirements for pork products allow for products made substantially from imported pork to be labelled as 'made in Australia'. We are concerned that this could confuse consumers as to the origin of the products' primary ingredients. Clearer country of origin labelling is required so that the country from which the pork was imported is clearly identified and communicated to the consumer.

This is very important for Australian consumers who are increasingly concerned about animal welfare in food production and who wish to purchase food that has been produced to higher welfare standards and to avoid those produced to lower welfare standards. Different countries will have substantially different animal welfare standards hence the need for clear country of origin labelling to enable Australian consumers to distinguish between products based on their animal welfare credentials. This will also help to support Australian livestock industries where they employ higher welfare standards to those of countries exporting to Australia.

We thank you for considering our comments and look forward to seeing further improvement to the food labelling requirements.

Yours sincerely,



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