AUSTRALIA

1. *GENERAL OVERVIEW*

Beef is Australia's second-most important agricultural commodity export. This fact, together with a community supported "buy Australia" policy, combine to limit prospects for Canadian exports in this sector to preserved meat and bovine semen, where sales valued at Aud $3.5 million were achieved in 1992. Beef production is forecast to fall in Australia by 7% in 1993/94, while on the assumption of improved seasonal conditions, prices for cattle are forecast to increase by 9%. Exports are expected to decline from 797,000 MT in 1992/93 to around 730,000 MT in 1993/94. Australian beef shipments to the Japanese market for Australian beef is expected to fall due to lower supplies while Korean exports of grass-fed beef are expected to recover to 90,000 MT. Australian Meat and Live-Stock Corp. (AMLC), however, during the last Annual General meeting announced that in year ending June 30, 1993, sales to Japan were 275,000 MT (value: Aud$1.25 billion) and expected to be 250,000 MT next year. As for sales to Korea, AMLC is forecasting 60,000 MT for 93/94. Domestic consumption in Australia continues to slide from 40.5 kgs/person in 1990 to (forecast) 37 kgs/person in 1993 (Source: ABARE), due in part to higher saleyard prices.

2. *CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MARKET*

A. *Local Production:*

i) *Production in MT*

Total meat production from slaughtered animals (beef and veal) ('000 MT dressed carcass weight):

1987	1564.4
1988	1551.0
1989	1572.9
1990	1723.8
1991	1734.8
1992	1775.2
1993	1831.9 (includes buffalo)

ii) *Types of cuts.*

Types of cuts available: shin; silverside/topside; round; rump; fillet; skirt; sirloin; ribs; blade/chuck; brisket.