

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
MEAT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1985
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

No. 26 of 1985

The amendments to the Meat Ordinance 1931, alter the legislation to reflect changes in slaughtering in the Australian Capital Territory and in the importation of meat into the Territory resulting from the introduction of a national meat inspection scheme. The opportunity has also been taken to make miscellaneous amendments to the legislation to delete provisions which are no longer required.

The amending Ordinance will commence on a date to be fixed by the Minister for Health on behalf of the Minister for Territories.

The sections in the Meat Ordinance 1931 which refer to the commencement and repeal of previous Ordinances have been repealed as they are no longer required. The definition section has also been amended as a result of other amendments to the Ordinance and other legislative changes such as the introduction of the Meat Inspection Act 1983 of the Commonwealth.

Section 6 of the Meat (Amendment) Ordinance 1985 amends section 5 of the Meat Ordinance 1931 (the Principal Ordinance) to delete the reference to the appointment of meat inspectors and to employment conditions, as these provisions are no longer necessary. Meat slaughtered in the Territory will be slaughtered in accordance with the Commonwealth Meat Inspection Act 1983. Section 7 repeals the existing Section 6 of the Principal Ordinance as it is unnecessary.

Section 7 also repeals section 7 of the Principal Ordinance which refers to the existing arrangements for the marking of meat for sale in the Territory. Section 7 substitutes for the existing section a new section which refers to the new arrangements for marking carcasses.

Section 8 repeals section 8 of the Principal Ordinance which provides for the establishment of public abattoirs, as abattoirs are controlled by Orders made under the Meat Inspection Act 1983.

Section 8 also repeals section 9 of the Principal Ordinance which contains the existing controls on where animals may be slaughtered and is therefore replaced by a new section in the form required by the new controls on abattoirs.

Section 9 makes a formal alteration to section 10 of the Principal Ordinance. The alteration is required by a change in drafting styles.

Section 10 amends section 11 of the Principal Ordinance to delete references to "Meat Inspector" which are no longer required and to insert references to the Meat Inspection Act 1983 to reflect the new arrangements for slaughtering.

Section 11 repeals sections 12,13 and 14 of the Principal Ordinance which are no longer required as these matters are to be controlled under the Meat Inspection Act 1983.

Section 12 makes a formal alteration to section 15 of the Principal Ordinance. The alteration is required by a change in drafting styles.

Section 13 repeals section 16 of the Principal Ordinance which is no longer required as abattoirs are controlled under the Meat Inspection Act 1983.

Section 17 of the Principal Ordinance has also been repealed as a revised power for determining fees is included in new section 19B of the Principal Ordinance.

Section 14 revises section 18 of the Principal Ordinance to extend the powers of authorised persons and require authorised persons to identify themselves when exercising their powers and when requested to do so by the occupier of premises or the person in charge of a vehicle. It is an offence to obstruct or hinder an authorised person in the exercise of his powers.

Section 15 repeals sections 19 and 19AA of the Principal Ordinance. These sections permit the Minister for Health and the Chairman of the Australian Capital Territory Health Authority to delegate their powers under the Ordinance. It is considered that under the revised arrangements these powers of delegation are unnecessary.

Section 16 amends section 19A of the Principal Ordinance which relates to evidence in proceedings for certain offences by adding a new sub-section (2) so that a document purporting to be signed by the Chairman shall be taken to be so signed unless the contrary is proved.

Section 17 inserts two new sections after section 19A of the Principal Ordinance. Sections 19B and 19C will permit the Minister to determine fees and provide a basis for the payment of those fees.

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