

# THE TERRITORY FOR THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

No. 13 of 1931.

## AN ORDINANCE

### To Control Slaughtering and the Sale of Meat.

**B**E it ordained by the person administering the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred by the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act* 1909 and the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act* 1910-1930, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the *Meat Ordinance* 1931. Short title.
2. This Ordinance shall commence on a date to be fixed by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*. Commencement.
3. The *Meat Ordinance* 1920, the *Meat Ordinance* 1926, the *Meat Ordinance* 1927 and the *Meat Ordinance* 1929 are repealed. Repeal.
4. In this Ordinance, unless the contrary intention appears— Definitions.
  - “Animal” means cattle, sheep, pigs, calves, goats;
  - “Authorized person” means a person authorized by this Ordinance or by the Minister to do the act in relation to which the expression is used;
  - “Approved” means approved by the Director-General or by an authorized person;
  - “City Area” means the City Area as defined by the *City Area Leases Ordinance* 1924-1929;
  - “Department” means the Department of Health;
  - “Meat” includes a carcase, or portion of a carcase of any animal, bones, fat, and blood for human consumption, but does not include tinned or canned goods, bacon, cooked meat, sausage meat, sausages, or small goods;
  - “Meat Inspector” means a Meat Inspector appointed under this Ordinance;
  - “Minister” means the Minister of State for Health.
  - “Regulations” means Regulations made under this Ordinance.
  - “The Director-General” means the Director-General of Health;
  - “This Ordinance” includes the regulations made thereunder.

**Appointment of  
meat inspectors  
and officers.**

**5.**—(1.) The Minister may appoint meat inspectors and such other officers and employ such persons as he thinks necessary for the purposes of this Ordinance and such officers and persons shall have such authority and powers as are conferred upon them by this Ordinance.

(2.) The officers or persons mentioned in the last preceding sub-section shall be appointed or employed subject to the *Commonwealth Public Service Act 1922-1930*.

**Powers of  
Director-  
General.**

**6.** The Director-General shall have all the authority and powers conferred by this Ordinance upon any officer or person.

**Importation of  
meat prohibited.**

**7.** Any person who, except in accordance with such conditions as are prescribed, brings into the Territory or causes to be brought into the Territory for the purposes of sale or of any business carried on by him or by any other person or sells or has in possession for sale or exposes for sale any meat which does not bear the prescribed brand, shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Fifty pounds.

**Establishment  
of public  
abattoirs.**

**8.** The Minister may establish public abattoirs in the Territory, may engage in the slaughtering of animals and may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, appoint any place not within a radius of ten miles of a public abattoir to be an approved slaughtering place.

**Animals to be  
slaughtered at  
public abattoirs.**

**9.** Except as hereinafter provided, any person who, without the consent in writing of the Director-General, slaughters any animal for food at any place in the Territory, other than a public abattoir or approved slaughtering place, shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Ten pounds.

**Slaughter of  
animals for  
private use.**

**10.** Notwithstanding anything contained in the last preceding section, any person may slaughter on his own premises, if such premises are outside the City Area, any animal for consumption by his own family or persons employed by him.

**Power to  
condemn  
carcasses.**

**11.**—(1.) A Meat Inspector or other authorized person may condemn—

- (a) any carcase or portion of a carcase or any organ which is in his opinion diseased or unfit for human consumption;
- (b) any meat which has suffered deterioration by exposure to flies, dust or weather conditions, or by contact with unclean surfaces, or which is in a state of putrefaction or decomposition; and
- (c) any meat not branded in accordance with this Ordinance.

(2.) A Meat Inspector may seize and destroy or otherwise dispose of any meat so condemned, and the owner thereof shall render reasonable assistance in the disposal thereof.

(3.) Any person who sells or offers for sale or uses for human consumption any organ, carcase or portion of a carcase so condemned shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: One hundred pounds.

12. If upon inspection any object in or any part of any carcase is discovered which, in the opinion of a Meat Inspector, is an object of scientific interest, the object or part shall be removed and shall become the property of the Minister.

Objects of scientific interest, how dealt with.

13. No person other than a person employed by the Minister shall, without the permission of the Director-General, salt any hide or dry any skin at any public abattoir, and no hide or skin shall be removed from any public abattoir until salted or dried.

Salting hides and drying skins.

14. All viscera and offal at any public abattoir, other than that which is ordinarily used in a butcher's retail trade, and which is required for that purpose and all meat condemned by a Meat Inspector or other authorized person shall become the property of the Minister.

Viscera and offal, how dealt with.

15.—(1.) The Minister shall have the exclusive right to engage in any of the following processes:—

Powers of Minister to engage in certain processes.

- (a) fat melting or tallow extracting;
- (b) bone grinding or manure manufacturing;
- (c) blood boiling or drying;
- (d) glue making;
- (e) soap or candle making;
- (f) gut scraping;
- (g) tripe cleaning or tripe cooking;
- (h) fellmongering or tanning; or
- (i) any other trade which the Minister declares by notice in the *Gazette* to be a noxious process.

(2.) The Minister may grant permission on such terms as he thinks fit to any person to engage in any of the processes set out in the last preceding sub-section.

(3.) Any person, who, without the permission of the Minister (proof whereof shall lie upon the person) engages in any of the processes set out in this section shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Fifty pounds.

(4.) The Minister may dispose of the products from any such process in such manner as he thinks fit.

16. The Minister shall take all reasonable care of any meat, hide, skin and refuse in his custody, but shall not be responsible for any loss or damage thereto:

Minister not responsible for loss or damage to meat, &c.

Provided that where any such loss or damage arises from the neglect or default of any person employed by the Minister the Minister may pay such compensation to the owner thereof as he thinks fit.

17. The Minister may from time to time determine the fees, charges or prices in respect of—

Minister to fix fees, &c.

- (a) the lairage, pasturage, examination or slaughter of animals at public abattoirs or approved slaughtering places;

- (b) the acquisition or treatment of fat, bones, viscera, offal or condemned meat under this Ordinance;
- (c) the disposal of tallow, blood, bonemeal or other products produced at abattoirs; or
- (d) salting, rolling, drying or other treatment of hides or skins.

Powers of  
meat inspectors.

18. For the purpose of carrying out this Ordinance, a Meat Inspector or other authorized person may—

- (a) at any reasonable time, and at all times when work is being performed, enter any butcher's shop, meat store, or place where meat is prepared for sale;
- (b) where he has reason to believe that meat in any vehicle or package is intended for sale, inspect that meat;
- (c) at any time, with such assistance as he thinks necessary, enter upon any premises where he has reason to believe a contravention of this Ordinance or the Regulations is being committed.

Power of  
Minister to  
delegate his  
powers under  
Ordinance.

19.—(1.) The Minister may, by writing under his hand, delegate any of his powers and functions under this Ordinance (except this power of delegation) in relation to any particular matter or class of matters, so that the delegated powers and functions may be exercised by the delegate with respect to the matter or class of matters specified in the instrument of delegation.

(2.) Every delegation under this section shall be revocable at will and no delegation shall prevent the exercise of any power or function by the Minister.

Regulations.

20. The Minister may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Ordinance, prescribing all matters which by this Ordinance are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for carrying out or giving effect to this Ordinance, and in particular prescribing matters providing for and in relation to—

- (a) the regulation of
  - (i) public abattoirs and slaughtering places;
  - (ii) the slaughter of animals;
  - (iii) the transport of meat.
- (b) the granting of permits or licences in connexion with slaughtering or the preparation or sale of meat or meat products for human consumption;
- (c) the imposition of fees for the grant of permits or licences or the use of public abattoirs; and
- (d) the imposition of penalties not exceeding Fifty pounds for breaches of the regulations.

Dated this twenty-second day of July, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

ISAAC A. ISAACS  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,  
J. McNEILL  
for Minister of State for Home Affairs.

By Authority: H. J. GREEN, Government Printer, Canberra.