



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

MRL harmonisation – an Australian perspective



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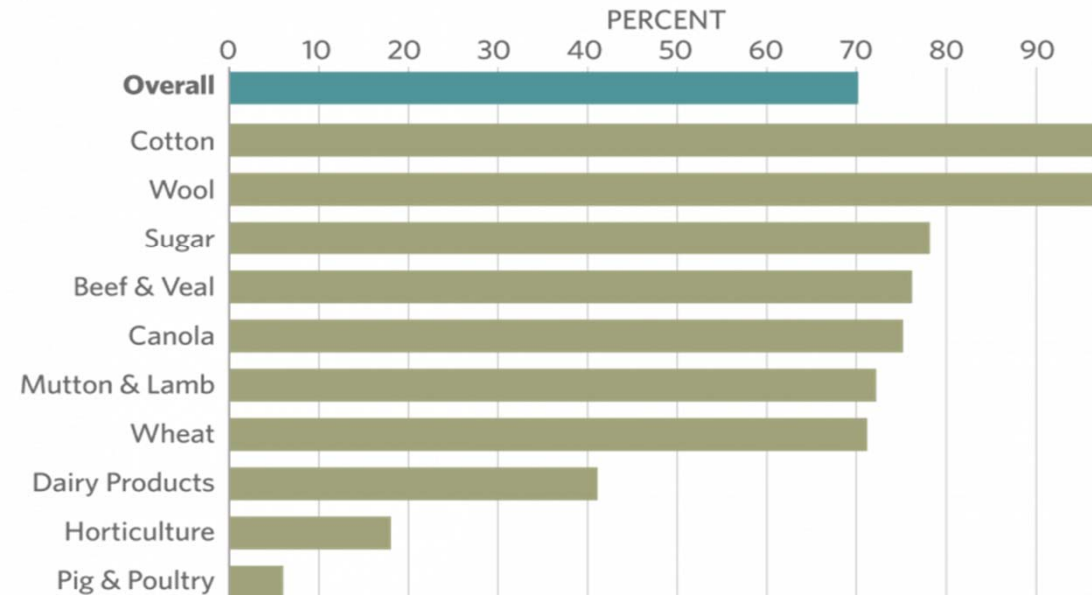
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Australia as a trading nation

- Australia is a trading nation.
- Over 70% of agri-food production is exported to over 100 countries
- For Australia, simple and consistent trading rules and systems are important.

Share of Australia's Agricultural Products Exported, 2014-2017

The country's small domestic market and vast territory make it an agricultural export powerhouse that exports 70 percent of its overall production.*



*2014-2015, 2016-2017 three-year average

Source: Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, ABARES

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Australia's regulatory system

- Australia has a robust science based system for setting MRL's
- Regulatory agencies consider environmental, health and trade issues in setting MRL's
- We are active participants in Codex and look to harmonize MRL's under Codex where possible.



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Regulation with trade in mind

- Australia has a pragmatic approach to MRL setting and accepting trade partner MRLs
 - Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority establishes MRLs for uses of pesticides and veterinary medicines approved in Australia
 - Australian use patterns may be different to other countries due to different pest pressures and climates
 - Food Standards Australia and New Zealand considers requests for MRL harmonisation to allow for 'import MRLs' to be established to facilitate trade
 - FSANZ are now routinely *considering* new international MRLs as they are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- Australia and New Zealand mutual recognition model
- Support for arrangements such as the APEC MRL system

Import MRL's/ Import Tolerances

- In the absence of a MRL it is important that import MRL's/ import tolerances are established to facilitate trade.
- The process for establishing IT's needs to be workable (cost and time effective) and science based.
- The establishment of IT's, just like MRL's, needs to take into account regional differences and requirements.

Next steps

- Australia will continue to engage internationally on MRL harmonisation
- Our science relating to setting and accepting third country MRL's will continue to take into account regional differences and requirements.
- Australia is happy to share its experience with MRL's and trade

