REPORT
FROM THE
MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
UPON
THE DISPOSAL OF CATTLE FROM
SEWAGE FARMS
TOGETHER WITH
APPENDICES

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 6th May, 1975.

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D.—No. 13.—4143/75.—Price 30 cents.
EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.


16. MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.—The Honorable V. O. Dickie moved, by leave, That, contingent upon the enactment, this Session, of legislation for the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly to inquire into and Report upon Certain Questions relating to the Meat Industry in Victoria, and for other purposes, the following Members of this House be appointed members of the Committee, viz.:- The Honorables R. J. Eddy, S. E. Gleeson*, and S. R. McDonald.*

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.


10. MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.—The Honorable Murray Byrne, moved by leave, That, the Honorables D. G. Crozier, S. E. Gleeson*, and S. R. McDonald* be members of the Meat Industry Committee.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

EXTRACTED FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.


28. MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.— Motion made, by leave, and question—That, contingent upon the enactment this Session, of legislation for the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly to inquire into and report upon certain questions relating to the meat industry in Victoria, and for other purposes, Mr. Ginifer, Mr. McKellar, Mr. Suggett, and Mr. Trewin be appointed members of the Committee (Mr. Hamer)—put and agreed to.

*The Honorables S. E. Gleeson and S. R. McDonald ceased to be Members of the Legislative Council on 14th July, 1973 upon expiry of their term. They were re-appointed to the Committee on 17th July, 1973 after being sworn in for new terms as Members of the Legislative Council.

Note : The Joint Select Committee (Meat Industry) Act 1973 (No. 8437) was assented to on 26th June, 1973.
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE (MEAT INDUSTRY) ACT 1973.

SECTION 4.

4. The function of the Committee shall be to conduct an inquiry into and report and make recommendations to the Council and the Assembly upon the question of whether the existing arrangements (including the statutory provisions) relating to the meat industry in Victoria are satisfactory, and what changes (if any) should be made; and, in particular—

(a) whether the present situation of the meat industry in Victoria is satisfactory in relation to—

(i) livestock killing and the chilling, freezing, packing, labelling, transporting, and selling facilities with respect to meat for human consumption;

(ii) the location, present capacity, and facilities of abattoirs and meat processing works and associated trades, and the needs (if any) to expand such facilities;

(iii) the standards of operation of the facilities referred to in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), including hygiene, inspection and grading procedures for meat destined for local consumption and for export;

(iv) the role of the government, of municipal authorities, and of private enterprise as administrators, owners or operators of such facilities;

(v) the control of livestock selling centres, their capacity and location in relation to such facilities, and the methods of selling livestock presently used;

(vi) the methods of selling meat, including the relationships between meat works owners and operators, wholesale and retail meat traders, meat purchasers and consumers;

(b) upon any other matters which appear relevant to the inquiry.
THE MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Joint Select Committee (Meat Industry) Act 1973 (No. 8437), has the honour to report as follows:—

1. On 25th October, 1973, your Committee received correspondence from the Chairman of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works inquiring whether it was within your Committee's terms of reference to investigate what the Board considered were outmoded and unjustified restrictions on the disposal of cattle grazed on sewage farms.

2. Your Committee examined the restrictions and resolved to institute an inquiry under the following terms:—
   (i) To examine any restrictions placed on the production and sale of cattle from sewage farms, to see whether these restrictions should be amended or repealed.
   (ii) Whether the sale of cattle from sewage farms for commercial purposes should be allowed.
   (iii) Whether sewage farms be permitted to transfer cattle between themselves.

3. Your Committee then proceeded to contact many people interested in this matter advising them of the terms of reference of the inquiry and inviting them to present evidence. Witnesses were then called.

4. Appended to this Report (Appendix "A") is a list of witnesses who appeared during the course of the inquiry, together with Minutes of Evidence.*

5. On 12th June, 1974, your Committee visited the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee, where an inspection was made and discussions held with officers of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

6. On 22nd August, 1974, your Committee travelled to Benalla where an inspection was made and discussions held with Commissioners of the Benalla Sewerage Authority.

HISTORY OF RESTRICTIONS.

7. Prior to 1933 no restriction was placed on the disposal of cattle from sewage farms. In 1933 the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works imposed a voluntary ban on the sale of cattle following a reported outbreak of cysticercus bovis in their cattle. In 1935 the Health Act (Health Act 1935 No. 4333 Section 19) banned the sale of sewerage authority cattle for human consumption.

8. This ban was not relaxed until 1942 when the National Security (Beef Shortages) Regulations, S.R. 380/1942 eased restrictions to allow cattle from the Metropolitan Farm to be used for human consumption on the home market. Between 1935 and 1942 the method of disposal of cattle was by boiling-down and it is estimated that approximately 23,000 cattle were disposed of in this manner.

9. In 1949 the National Security Regulation relaxation was codified in an amendment to the Health Act (Health (Cattle) Act 1949 No. 5437). This allowed for the sale of sewerage authority cattle for human consumption if slaughtered and inspected under stringent conditions and provided that the carcass be condemned if any cyst of cysticercus bovis in a viable state was found. New provisions introduced at this time were that sewerage authority cattle should be kept segregated at all times, and could only be slaughtered at an export abattoir in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

10. Since that time more sewerage authorities have elected to graze cattle as a means of pasture control. These authorities are required to apply for a brand to be issued to designate cattle from their farm. (Night-Soil and Sewerage (Contamination of Land) Regulations 1967, S.R. 282/1967, Regulations 5, 6 and Schedule). At the present time sixteen sewerage authorities have been assigned brands, although not all have commenced to graze cattle.

11. Attached to this Report (Appendix "B") is a list of the sewerage authorities that are currently grazing, or may in the future graze, cattle on sewage irrigated pasture, together with the year in which they commenced grazing cattle and the approximate number carried.

*Minutes of Evidence not printed.
12. Cysticercus bovis (beef measles) is the larval stage in the cycle of the human tapeworm—taenia saginata—and develops in the muscles of cattle. The cyst forms when eggs of taenia saginata are ingested by a beast that has been grazing on pasture contaminated by infected sewage or human faecal matter. On reaching the alimentary canal of the beast the walls of the eggs rupture and embryos are liberated. These penetrate the gut wall and gain entrance to the systemic circulation. They are filtered from the circulation and undergo further development in the areas of predeliction, the most common areas of which are the tongue, cheek, heart and diaphragm. The embryos metamorphose over a period of about 60-70 days to form the cysticercus stage. This cyst remains viable in the flesh of cattle until it degenerates after about 8 months. The cyst can only develop further if ingested by man—its definitive host.

13. Human beings are infected through eating under-cooked beef containing viable cysts. Inside the alimentary canal the scolex (head of the tapeworm), on coming in contact with the bile, exvaginates and anchors to the gut wall by means of its suckers and develops into an adult worm by gradual strobilization. The worm grows to sexual maturity in 2-3 months and starts producing eggs which are in their turn passed in the faeces thereby repeating the cycle.

14. The cycle therefore relies on two hosts—man—the definitive host, and cattle—the passive host. The condition cannot be transmitted, from man to man, or from beast to beast, in any way.

15. Taenia saginata, the human stage of the cycle, is not considered to have a high priority in regard to public health. Incidence of this condition is very rare and treatment is both simple and extremely effective. Your Committee has received considerable evidence on both the life-cycle and this condition, and has studied both carefully in considering possible changes in regulations concerning the sale of cattle from sewage farms.

GENERAL CONDITION OF SEWAGE FARM CATTLE.

16. Your Committee has had the benefit of expert advice in its consideration of this matter. Naturally cysticercus bovis and its incidence in sewerage authority cattle and cattle from other sources was of importance in considering whether sewerage authority cattle should be discriminated against compared with other cattle.

17. It is apparent from evidence received that the incidence of cysticercus bovis in sewerage authority cattle is no greater than in stock from other sources. In fact evidence shows that the percentage incidence in cattle from other sources is higher than that of sewerage authorities. Mr. Fewster, Chief Veterinary Inspector of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry, carried out a survey of cattle slaughtered in Victoria and Tasmania in 1966*. His findings indicate a percentage of 0.027 per cent of cattle rejected following discovery of viable cysts of cysticercus bovis at inspection. It is interesting to compare this figure with that of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. Between 1956 and 1966, 50,407 cattle were slaughtered. 9 of these were condemned following discovery of viable cysts which gives a percentage rejection of 0.0178 per cent, markedly lower than that of the State. Since that time a further 34,463 cattle have been sold from the Metropolitan Farm. Of this number only 4 have been condemned. This is a percentage incidence of 0.012 per cent.

18. Your Committee has also had the opportunity to refer to important research on the subject of cysticercus bovis done by Dr. W. J. Penfold, Dr. H. Boyd Penfold and M. Phillips of the Baker Medical Research Institute between 1933 and 1935†.

19. This research has indicated that cattle raised on sewage farms acquire an active immunity to cysticercus bovis which progressively degenerates cysts which develop within the bodies of any cattle which have ingested taenia saginata eggs.

20. Later research has suggested that the development of this immunity might start immediately a calf is born through transferral from the mother by way of the colostrum. (Rickard, Melbourne University Veterinary Clinical Centre, et al unpublished). Thus a passive immunity to cysticercus bovis is conferred on the calf before it has the opportunity to ingest taenia saginata eggs by eating grass on which eggs have been deposited.

21. Your Committee considers that some change is necessary and desirable and sets out hereunder its recommendations and comments on the present restrictions on the disposal of sewerage authority cattle.

STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE AUTHORITY CATTLE.

Section 83—Health Act 1958.

22. "83. (1) Every sewerage authority which permits suffers or allows any cattle, which are grazing on or are upon any land used by such sewerage authority for the purposes of depositing or spreading night-soil or sewage, to be removed from such land shall, unless cattle are forthwith destroyed and disposed of otherwise than for human consumption, be guilty of an offence against this Act and shall be liable to a penalty of $20 for each head of cattle so removed but nothing in this sub-section shall apply in respect of cattle (other than pigs) grazing on any such land in any case where—

(i) such cattle are removed for immediate slaughter at an abattoir situate in the Melbourne metropolitan area and registered as a meat export establishment by the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture and after such removal and until so slaughtered are kept segregated from other animals; and

(ii) the carcasses of such cattle are inspected and branded as prescribed: Provided that in any case where inspection discloses the presence of the disease cysticercus bovis, in viable state, the carcass shall be condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

(2) Every person (other than a sewerage authority) being the owner or occupier of any land used for the purposes of depositing or spreading night-soil or sewage who permits suffers or allows any cattle to graze on or be upon such land shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

(3) For the purposes of this section—

"Cattle" means any bull cow ox steer heifer calf or pig.

"Night-soil" does not include night-soil which has been purified to the prescribed standard.

"Sewage" does not include sewage which has been purified to the prescribed standard.

"Sewerage authority" means any sewerage authority within the meaning of the Sewerage Districts Act 1958, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust and the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board.

(4) The Governor in Council may make regulations for or with respect to prescribing standards of purification for night-soil and sewage for the purposes of this section and for or with respect to the sale and disposal of cattle and the inspection and branding of carcasses for the purposes of this section."

Section 83 (1) (i)—Disposal of Cattle.

23. Your Committee received evidence on this particular sub-section and upon examination considers that some amendment is necessary.

24. As mentioned earlier in this Report the effect of the Health (Cattle) Act in 1949 was to codify the National Security Regulation which allowed the use of sewerage authority cattle for human consumption. In addition it included two new provisions, that cattle had to be killed at an export abattoir in the metropolitan area, and that sewerage authority cattle had to be segregated at all times.

25. It is obvious that the requirement that sewerage authority cattle be killed at an export works was to ensure that they should be subject to the highest standard of meat inspection which, at that time, was undertaken by the Commonwealth meat inspection service.

26. Some evidence presented to your Committee suggested that this requirement should continue to ensure adequate inspection of carcasses. The weight of evidence, however, indicated that meat inspection at most centres was now conducted satisfactorily.

27. It is apparent that this provision is not enforced, because a large percentage of sewerage authority cattle disposed of is slaughtered at the Melbourne City Abattoir which is not a registered export abattoir.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Cattle Sold from Sewage Farms through Newmarket Sateyards</th>
<th>Slaughtered at Melbourne City Abattoirs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>4906</td>
<td>1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>4281</td>
<td>2434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source—Melbourne City Council)
28. Your Committee believes that the fears of inadequate meat inspection in local abattoirs will shortly be removed with the introduction of uniform meat inspection under the control of the Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority of the Victorian Department of Agriculture. The Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973 (No. 8404) was proclaimed on 17th April, 1973 and is now in force. This will have the effect of rationalizing all inspection under a uniform code in Victoria and will lead to higher standards of inspection.

29. Your Committee therefore recommends that the requirement that cattle from sewage farms be slaughtered only at an export abattoir in the Melbourne metropolitan area be removed and that cattle slaughtered for human consumption should now be required to be slaughtered at any abattoir where inspection is carried out by either inspectors of the Victorian Department of Agriculture or the Australian Department of Agriculture.

30. Examination of the Parliamentary Debates on the debate of the Health (Cattle) Bill (Hansard 26th October, 1949, p. 3228) has indicated to your Committee that the provision making segregation of sewerage authority cattle mandatory was inserted to counter any chance of cysticercus bovis being transmitted from sewerage authority cattle to cattle from another source at any stage.

31. The evidence of veterinarians given to your Committee indicates that there is absolutely no possibility of cysticercus bovis being transmitted from one beast to another at any stage of transport, sale or slaughter. As the bovine animal is the passive host in the cycle of the development of taenia saginata and relies on man for the continuance of the cycle, it is obvious that such a segregation is unnecessary.

32. One result of this provision is the imposition of unnecessary expense on sewerage authorities, especially the smaller ones. These authorities are required to segregate their cattle at all times and therefore are forced to forward stock to sale using transport solely for their own cattle. In the case of smaller authorities that forward only small numbers of cattle at any one time, the result is an increase in transportation costs which your Committee believes is unwarranted.

33. For the reasons outlined above, your Committee recommends that the provision requiring the segregation of sewerage authority cattle at all times, be repealed.

34. Although sewerage authorities are presently allowed to sell cattle at any age for direct slaughter, evidence was received suggesting that an amendment should be made to this sub-section imposing a minimum age limit for the sale of sewerage authority cattle for slaughter. It was suggested that this might be necessary to ensure that the acquired immunity of sewerage authority cattle to cysticercus bovis had removed any possible risk of these cattle to public health.

35. Your Committee considers that to impose an age limit for slaughter of sewerage authority cattle would be a retrograde step and recommends therefore that no change be made and that sewerage authorities continue to be allowed to sell cattle for direct slaughter at any age.

Section 83 (1) (ii)—Health Act 1958—Inspection of Carcasses.

36. Your Committee considers that the highest standard of meat inspection must be maintained and recommends that this provision be retained.

Section 83 (2)—Health Act 1958.

37. Your Committee considers that this control on grazing of land used for the depositing of night-soil or sewage is still necessary. It is considered that the sewerage authorities are able to control their activities so that cattle are at all times traceable. Any relaxation of this provision would be undesirable and your Committee recommends its retention.

Section 83 (3)—Health Act 1958.

38. It is apparent to your Committee that appropriate definitions of terms in this Act are necessary if it is to operate effectively. No change is considered necessary in this sub-section.

Section 83 (4)—Health Act 1958.

39. The provision for the Governor in Council to make regulations in relation to—(i) sewerage authorities regarding standards of purification of effluent; and (ii) means of disposal of cattle has not been challenged and is considered necessary by your Committee.

NIGHT-SOIL AND SEWAGE (CONTAMINATION OF LAND) REGULATIONS 1967.

40. These regulations were made pursuant to Section 83 (4) of the Health Act 1958. They replace earlier regulations on the same matter. Your Committee considered regulations concerning the disposal of cattle from sewage farms and recommends certain changes.
Regulation 5—Identification of Cattle.

5. A sewerage authority shall ensure that all cattle that are reared or grazed on any land used by the authority for the purposes of depositing or spreading night-soil or sewage are readily identifiable at all times and that all such cattle over the age of nine months are fire-branded on one cheek or tattooed on one ear with letters denoting the authority as prescribed in the schedule to these Regulations.

41. Your Committee considers that adequate identification of cattle presented for slaughter is an essential factor in the tracing and control of various animal diseases. Your Committee therefore considers that identification as prescribed in this regulation would be beneficial and recommends that it be retained with some amendment.

42. Under existing regulations sewerage authorities are given the alternative of fire-branding or tattooing as the means of identification of their cattle. Your Committee considers, however, that uniformity is desirable and recommends that the regulation be changed to require that all sewerage authorities brand their cattle on one cheek with the letters designating that authority.

43. Your Committee also recommends that sewerage authorities be permitted to use the newer method of freeze branding as an alternative to fire-branding.

44. Your Committee considers, however, that uniformity is desirable and recommends that the regulation be changed to require that all sewerage authorities brand their cattle on one cheek with the letters designating that authority.

45. Your Committee recommends that the cheek brand for sewerage authority cattle should take the following form. For example a beast born on the Metropolitan Farm in 1975 would carry the brand MB5.

46. Your Committee anticipates that the Victorian Department of Agriculture will shortly initiate a scheme for tracing various bovine diseases in Victoria. In this scheme all farms in the State will be given a registered number and this number, in the form of a tail tag, will be required to be attached to all cattle prior to their removal from a property for slaughter.

47. Your Committee believes that this scheme, mainly intended to trace the incidence of brucellosis and tuberculosis will also be important in tracing any cases of cysticercus bovis from areas of the State other than sewage farms.

Regulation 6—Identification of Cattle for Sale.

6. Before sewerage authority cattle are removed from land used for the depositing of night-soil or sewage the sewerage authority shall ensure that in addition to any other marks the cattle are marked prominently on the loin or rump with letters of durable paint as prescribed in the Schedule to these Regulations.

48. Your Committee considers that the paint brand as required by this regulation, and the requirement that sewerage authority cattle must be segregated at all times, has led to a stigma being placed on cattle from sewage farms.

49. Evidence received by your Committee indicates that buyers of cattle, influenced by the requirements, consider that numbers of sewerage authority cattle are diseased and will therefore be condemned. This lack of demand results in prices obtained for sewerage authority cattle being 15-20 per cent below prevailing market prices.

50. Your Committee considers that this discrimination is unjustified and recommends that the requirement that sewerage authority cattle be paint branded before sale be repealed.

Regulation 7—Removal from Sewage Farm for Sale.

7. (1) At least one day before any sewerage authority cattle are removed from the authority's premises the authority shall notify—

(a) the Commission of Public Health; and

(b) the superintendent of the sale-yard or abattoir or knacker's yard to which the animals are to be sent—

of the age, sex, colour and trade description of each animal to be so consigned and the name of the consignee.

(2) Cattle so removed shall be sent to either—

(a) a cattle sale-yard conducted by a municipal council;

(b) an export abattoir; or

(c) a knacker's yard.
51. It is apparent to your Committee that this regulation is intended to be one of the ways in which strict control would be maintained over the transportation and sale of sewerage authority cattle. In line with its recommendation that segregation is no longer necessary your Committee believes that this requirement is also unnecessary. Also there seems to be no necessity for requiring that sewerage authority cattle be sold only at a saleyard operated by a municipal council.

52. Your Committee considers that these requirements are unnecessary if the Committee's earlier recommendation on identification is adopted. This will ensure that sewerage authority cattle are always readily identifiable.

53. Your Committee therefore recommends that regulation 7, with the exception of Clause 2 (c) be repealed. It is recommended that sewerage authorities continue to be allowed to forward stock to a knacker's yard.

Regulations 8 and 9—Segregation of Sewerage Authority Cattle.

"8. Sewerage authority cattle shall be segregated from other animals when being transported and shall at all times be accommodated in pens separate from other cattle.

9. The superintendent of the sale-yard or abattoir in which sewerage authority cattle are to be received shall cause to be set aside sufficient and separate pens for holding such cattle."

54. Your Committee considers that these regulations are only a repetition of the requirement of Section 83 (1) (i) of the Health Act 1958 discussed in paragraphs 30-33 of this Report. Your Committee reiterates that the transmission of cysticercus bovis from one beast to another is impossible and that there is no need for sewerage authority cattle to be segregated. Your Committee therefore recommends that these regulations be repealed.

Regulation 10—Transportation from Saleyards to Abattoir or Knackery.

"10. The superintendent of sale-yards where sewerage authority cattle are accommodated shall notify the superintendent of the abattoir or knacker's yard to which such cattle are to be transported of the age sex colour and trade description of each head of cattle, the name of the purchaser, and the date on which such cattle are to leave the sale-yards."

55. Your Committee considers that this regulation imposes similar requirements to regulation 7 discussed earlier in this Report (paragraphs 51-53). Once again, it hinges on the requirement that sewerage authority cattle must be kept segregated and which the Committee now considers unnecessary. Your Committee therefore recommends that this regulation be repealed.

Regulation 11—Inspection Requirements.

"11. Sewerage authority cattle received at an abattoir shall be slaughtered as soon as practicable and in addition to carrying out the requirements imposed on him by the Meat Supervision Regulations 1956 a meat inspector who finds viable cysts of cysticercus bovis in the carcass of any sewerage authority cattle shall notify the Commission of the circumstances forthwith."

56. This provision has been discussed earlier in this Report when considering section 83 (1) (ii) of the Health Act 1958 (paragraph 36). Your Committee considers that this regulation, although necessary, reflects unfavourably on the condition of cattle from sewerage authorities. Your Committee recommends that this regulation be repealed and that a regulation be inserted in the appropriate meat inspection regulations to make it a requirement that meat inspectors report to the Commission of Public Health every incidence of cysticercus bovis in viable state, regardless of the source of origin.

SALE OF SEWAGE FARM CATTLE FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

57. Your Committee heard evidence from witnesses regarding the sale of sewerage authority cattle for commercial purposes.

58. Your Committee considers that sewerage authorities should be permitted to sell cattle for purposes other than direct slaughter. Your Committee considers that this will be accepted by all sectors of the livestock industry.

59. As a safeguard against the remote possibility that cattle from a sewage farm may be slaughtered somewhere other than an abattoir under the control of the Victorian or Australian Departments of Agriculture, your Committee recommends that no cattle be disposed of other than for slaughter or to a knacker's yard until they have reached the age of eighteen months.

60. Evidence presented to your Committee indicates that at this age cattle grazed on sewage irrigated pasture have developed an active immunity to cysticercus bovis and the possibility of viable cysts remaining is remote.
61. It is for the purpose of identifying cattle that can be released for commercial purposes that your Committee has recommended the type of cheek brand described in paragraph 45.

62. Your Committee draws attention to research which will presently be undertaken by the Veterinary Clinical Centre, Werribee. This research will entail thorough investigation of 200, 10-11 month old cattle from the Metropolitan Farm, to determine the incidence of disease, especially cysticercus bovis, amongst these cattle and to try and determine the degree of immunity in cattle at this age.

63. Your Committee believes that, if the results of this investigation are satisfactory, consideration should be given to lowering the age limit recommended in paragraph 59.

TRANSFER OF STOCK BETWEEN SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES.

64. Regulations at present forbid the removal of any stock from a sewage farm other than for slaughter. Consequently, the transfer of stock between sewerage authorities is prohibited.

65. Evidence submitted to your Committee contended that stock could quite safely be transferred between sewerage authorities to aid in the development of their herds. The savings to the authorities in doing this are self-evident and the removal of this restriction does not seem to pose any problems.

66. Your Committee on considering the evidence presented on this matter could see no reason why stock should not be transferred freely between sewerage authorities and accordingly recommends that a change in regulations be made.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

67. Your Committee recommends as follows:

(i) That sewerage authority cattle be slaughtered at any abattoir where meat inspection is carried out by the Victorian Department of Agriculture or the Australian Department of Agriculture.

(ii) That sewerage authorities continue to be allowed to sell cattle for direct slaughter at any age.

(iii) That the present standard for meat inspection be retained as outlined in Section 83 (1) (ii) of the Health Act 1958.

(iv) That Section 83 (2), (3) and (4) of the Health Act 1958 be retained.

(v) That sewerage authority cattle be required to be fire or freeze branded on one cheek with the appropriate letters identifying the authority plus a number designating the year of birth.

(vi) That sewerage authorities be no longer required to apply a paint brand to cattle forwarded for sale.

(vii) That the requirements of advice of transfer of stock from sewerage authority to sale-yard be repealed.

(viii) That sewerage authorities continue to be allowed to sell cattle to knackeries at any age.

(ix) That the requirements that sewerage authority cattle be segregated during transport, sale, and slaughter be repealed.

(x) That the requirement that the superintendent of a saleyard advise an abattoir or knackery of stock to be forwarded to them be repealed.

(xi) That Regulation 11 be repealed and that it be replaced by regulation requiring every incidence of cysticercus bovis in viable state to be reported to the Commission of Public Health regardless of source of origin.

(xii) That sewerage authority cattle be permitted to be sold for purposes other than direct slaughter after 18 months of age.

(xiii) That transfer of stock between sewerage authorities be permitted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

68. Your Committee records its thanks to all who have helped in the compiling of this Report, especially Miss E. Kozlowski and Mrs. J. Halley of the Parliamentary Debates, who have recorded most of the evidence taken. In particular your Committee wishes to thank its Secretary, Mr. D. Farnsworth, for his work during the inquiry and in the preparation of the Report.

Committee Room,
6th May, 1975.
APPENDIX “A”.

WITNESSES.

At Melbourne:
K. A. Bramich, Farm Manager, Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board.
R. W. Campbell, Principal Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture.
J. B. McPherson, Farm Manager, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.
M. D. Rickard, Senior Lecturer, Veterinary Parasitology, University of Melbourne.
W. N. Sloan, Deputy Chief Health Officer, Department of Health.
E. J. Guppy, Provincial Sewerage Authorities Association of Victoria.
J. D. G. Fagan,

At Morwell:
A. L. Carr, Secretary, Maffra Waterworks Trust and Sewerage Authority.
R. A. Fletcher, Secretary, Morwell Sewerage Authority.
K. L. Nickell, Member, Drouin Sewerage Authority.

At Benalla:
E. J. Guppy, Commissioner, Benalla Sewerage Authority.

APPENDIX “B”.

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<th>Authority</th>
<th>Year commenced grazing cattle</th>
<th>Approximate number of cattle</th>
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<td>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>400</td>
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<td>170</td>
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<td>Drouin</td>
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<td>Echuca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frankston</td>
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