

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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STATE TRADING

Notifications Pursuant to Article XVII:4(a)

AUSTRALIA

The Permanent Mission of Australia has notified the secretariat that the following modifications should be made in its last full notification as contained in document L/4140/Add.10.

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1. Page 1, paragraph I(e), delete:

"Queensland Sugar Board (complementary Australian Government and Queensland Legislation places this board in a privileged position regarding the export of sugar)"

and insert:

"The Sugar Board (of Queensland)".

2. Page 2, paragraph 2, last line, delete:

"1968-1973"

and insert:

"1974, as amended".

3. Page 5, delete all of section (e) "Queensland Sugar Board" and replace with the following:

"(e) The Sugar Board (of Queensland)

"The Sugar Board (of Queensland) is constituted under the Queensland Sugar Acquisition Act. The Queensland Government (through the Sugar Board) acquires all raw sugar produced in Queensland and also purchases all raw sugar produced in New South Wales (by arrangement with CSR Ltd. which owns the three mills in that State). Sugar is not produced elsewhere in Australia. The acquisition and marketing of Australian raw sugar by the Queensland Government is recognized in the Commonwealth/Queensland Sugar Agreement which was renegotiated in 1974 to operate from 1 February 1975 to 30 June 1979.

"The reason for the Board's acquisition, on behalf of the Queensland Government, of all Australian produced sugar is to assist in regulating the production and marketing of sugar. Under present arrangements, returns to growers and millers from all domestic and a proportion of export sales are placed in one of two pools. The returns from all remaining export sales are placed in the other pool. Each pool has its separate price which applies uniformly to all sugar within that particular pool. The domestic price is controlled at a level agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. This provides a stabilizing influence on growers' and millers' returns as well as conferring the benefits of a stable price on Australian consumers. The arrangements also facilitate the regulation of exports in conformity with the Commonwealth Government's international obligations, for example, under quota provisions of an international sugar agreement, or in relation to bilateral long-term agreements for the supply and purchase of Australian raw sugar.

"Under the Sugar Agreement, the Queensland Government (through the Sugar Board) undertakes to make sugar and sugar products available at certain places in Australia at specified wholesale prices, to control the production of cane sugar and, subject to certain conditions, to supply sugar used in specified manufactured goods exported at the Australian equivalent of the world's parity price."

4. Pages 10 and 11, section (e):

- replace "Queensland Sugar Board" with "the Sugar Board (of Queensland)"
- sub-section (i) Exports, fourth line, delete: "Minister for Northern Development" and insert "Minister for Primary Industry"
- sub-section (ii) Imports, second and third lines, delete: "Minister for Northern Development" and insert "Minister for Primary Industry"
- sub-section (iii) Domestic Prices, third line, delete: "Federal/Queensland" and insert "Commonwealth/Queensland".

