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## Trump Celebrates End of Australia's US Beef Restrictions

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United States (US) President Donald Trump has hailed Australia's decision to lift biosecurity restrictions on American beef imports, predicting a surge in exports with his claim, "We are going to sell so much to Australia." This article examines Trump's reaction, the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) role in the decision, and why critics argue it compromises local interests.

On July 24, 2025, Australia announced it would ease restrictions on US beef, previously limited due to concerns over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow

disease, since 2003. The decision, following a decade-long review by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), allows beef from cattle born in Canada or Mexico but slaughtered in the US, prompted by improved US traceability systems, as reported by ABC News. Trump, in a July 25 Truth Social post, called it “undeniable proof” that US beef is the “safest and best,” warning other nations rejecting US beef to take notice.

Critics, including Shadow Agriculture Minister David Littleproud, question the ALP's motives, suggesting the timing, months after Trump's April 2025 tariffs on Australian goods, smacks of political appeasement. Littleproud told ABC Radio, “We need to know if the government is sacrificing our high biosecurity standards just to secure a meeting with Trump.” Australia's beef industry, a \$14 billion export giant, relies heavily on the US market, with 394,716 tonnes shipped in 2024, per the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC). Yet, local producers like Nick Sher from Ballan argue that US beef, pricier and less preferred, won't flood Australian markets, per the Sydney Morning Herald.

The ALP insists the decision is science-based, with Agriculture Minister Julie Collins stating, “We will never compromise on biosecurity.” However, conservative voices on X, like @RastusMk2, reflect public skepticism, with some vowing to boycott US beef, favoring Australia's grass-fed product. Economists, cited by Reuters, doubt significant US exports due to high prices and Australia's self-sufficiency, noting only 269.5 tonnes of US beef were imported last year.

Trump's enthusiasm may overstate the trade shift, but the move highlights tensions in the ALP's trade strategy, risking local producer confidence for uncertain gains in US negotiations, leaving Australia's beef industry at a crossroads.