

Halal Certification Process by Local Governments and Muslim Organizations in Australia

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Abstract: - The research article will discuss the halal certification process and the cooperation of Muslim organizations in Australia with local governments. in Australia. A halal certificate is a legal document issued by the government that certifies that the meat was produced in accordance with Islamic law. Australia is the world's largest meat-producing country. This makes Australia must meet the demand of producers. With the export of meat consumed by Muslim countries, Australia must have halal certification for its consumer products, this is due to requests submitted by Muslim countries themselves. Halal certification is a hot topic of discussion. especially issues of funding a product to receive halal certification. The price of acquiring a halal certification varies greatly depending on the product, the organization, the location of the certification office, and whether the food will be exported or will only be consumed domestically.

Key-words: halal, certification, Islamic, policy

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1. Introduction

Australia is a resource-rich, remote, thinly populated nation that depends significantly on commerce and access to other countries distant markets. Australia has provided the British market with mining resources, agricultural products, and industrial items ever since it was a colony. This foreign trade can be considered as Australia's primary national interest. (Hamid, Australian Political System, 1999)

Australia is the world's largest meat exporting country and a pioneer country in the world's halal production. Australia is an egalitarian country where the government gives people the freedom to embrace the religion they want to follow and they also have the right not to embrace a religion. However, this differs from halal manufacturing in Australia, where that country pioneered the practice and the government actively supports it. Halal regulations are legally intended for export purposes to Muslim-majority countries. The Australian government is very concerned

about the implementation of halal and has an interest in working with the Muslim community in Australia in the context of halal business. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), a division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, is the recognized government organization that has a role in Australia's meat and dairy industries (DAFF). This article will discuss the halal certification process and the cooperation of Muslim organizations in Australia with local governments. in Australia.

2. Halal Concept

The words "halal" and "haram" are terms of the Koran and these are used in various places with different concepts, and most of what is related to halal and haram is food and drink (Ali, 2016). Halal is something that is permitted by Islamic law to be carried out, used, or cultivated, because the ropes or bonds that prevent it have been unraveled or elements that are harmful with attention to how to obtain them, not with muamalah results which are

prohibited (Ali, 2016).

As a Muslim consuming halal food is an obligation. In Australia, Muslims are a minority religion, so it is often difficult for a Muslim to get halal food. This difficulty begins with the aspect of the halal certificate. This is because many slaughterhouses want to get halal meat only by employing Muslims without understanding according to Islamic law. (Natashi, 2016)

The Muslim population in Australia is only about 2.2 per cent, this means that another 98 per cent are non-Muslims. Muslims experience difficulties that are quite a concern, namely obtaining halal food and drinks. Starting from this difficulty for Muslims, the Australian Federation Islamic Council (AFIC) together with other Islamic organizations, established an institution issuing halal certification, both for restaurants and slaughterhouses (abatoir). (republica.co.id, 2009)

In Australia, there are several halal issuing institutions, including AFIC, Australian Halal Certificate Authority, Al-Iman Islamic Society, Australian Halal Food Service, Adelaide Mosque Islamic Society of South Australia, Islamic Coordinating Council of Victoria (ICCV), Perth Mosque Incorporated, Islamic Association of Katanning, and Geraldton. (2009) Republica.co.id.

Australia now has a number of halal certification granting organizations, albeit there are not many. Al-Iman Islamic Society, the Islamic Coordinating Council of Victoria (ICCV), the Australian Halal Certificate Authority, the Australian Halal Food Service, the Adelaide Mosque Islamic Society of South Australia, the Perth Mosque Incorporated, the Islamic Association of Katanning, and Geraldton are among these publishers.

Among the halal certification issuers in Australia, there are publishers that have been recognized by several Islamic organizations in the world. Among them are the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Including, several slaughterhouses, such as the Supreme Islamic Council of Halal Meat in Australia, the Adelaide Islamic Mosque Society, the ICCV,

and Perth Mosque Inc. It is these institutions that provide halal certification to restaurants in Australia and are independent bodies from the Islamic Center Australia itself, and the government does not intervene in this matter.

A halal certificate is a legal document issued by the government that certifies that the meat was produced in accordance with Islamic law. (agriculture.gov.au, 2009). Halal certificate means that the contents and manufacture of the product have been authorized by a religious authority in accordance with Islamic sharia law relating to food. There are several Islamic institutions in Australia that compete in Halal certification services. (fettayleh.com)

Australian consumers have a choice of two sources for Halal-certified goods: locally produced goods certified by Australian firms, or imported goods certified elsewhere (fettayleh.com). A guideline for the preparation, identification, storage, and export certification of halal red meat and red meat products was made available by the Australian Government's Halal Program AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service) Meat Notice in 2009. It intends to give advice to all businesses on how to kill cattle, prepare it for identification, processing, storage, segregation, and certification of halal meat and red meat products—hereafter referred to as halal meat—for export to all importing nations (Azdee A, 2020).

All registered businesses that produce, process, and store halal red meat and meat products for export are covered by this notification. This also holds true for Islamic institutions that oversee and accredit the export of halal meat. An Accredited Islamic Organization (AIO) and an AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service) organization are crucial to the administration and slaughter of halal for export to Australia.

From July 2005, export control orders for meat and meat products (ECMMPOs) have been in effect. This order requires that each company has a documented procedure which means that it must be relevant to the type of establishment that has been determined to carry out preparation, slaughter, identification, processing, separation and halal meat certification. This process is a step in creating

the approved arrangement (AA). The Approved Arrangements (AA) serve as a guide for all registered businesses in order to ensure that they are in compliance with laws pertaining to good hygiene practices, food safety, wholeness, and importation restrictions. The halal certification agency will play a role in examining the requirements of importing countries regarding halal certification.

The AA should designate an Authorized Islamic Organization (AIO) in charge of women's slaughter operations training and supervision, and will regularly check halal arrangements after installation. The Authorized Islamic Organization (AIO), which is tasked with carrying out halal certification, is required to obtain an AA in order to fulfill orders for halal items. The AIO is in charge of managing religious matters and issuing approval for the export of halal meat. Islamic Organizations must fulfill the accreditation requirements outlined in the directive in order to be accepted (Bennis, M., 2015)

An organization is said to be an approved Islamic organization if it meets the criteria outlined in the ECMMP and is given the secretary's or delegate's approval. AIO seeks to supervise the production of halal meat and its certification for export to other nations. AQIS routinely updates and publishes AIO listings (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service). 2009 (agriculture.gov.au) A government veterinarian, quality insurance, and a halal certification organization are the three infrastructural components that AQIS offers for halal meat export businesses. The certifying agency or Islamic group that conducts the certification makes all judgments about halal or specific requirements from the importing nation.

The Australian government does not interfere in this sharia realm. (repository.ipb.ac.id) Every organization or institution that plays a role in halal activities in Australia has the following work procedures;

1. For the purpose of overseeing manufacturing and certifying halal meat, an approved Islamic organization (AIO) is an Islamic organization (IO) chosen based on certain criteria under the Export Control (Meat and Meat Product

Orders) (ECMMPO) 2005. They must also have approval from the local mosque, the importing nation's government, and submit thorough information on the monitoring and training of Muslim butchers.

2. The company carries out procedures for guaranteeing halal products by ensuring and being responsible for animals slaughtered according to Islamic law. this condition is proven by the existence of a label after fulfilling halal requirements.
3. AQIS conducts inspections based on National Establishment Verification System (NEVS) procedures for slaughter, identification, processing, storage, segregation and halal certification. (repository.ipb.ac.id)

In the associations carried out by Muslim organizations in Australia, it is especially stated that the Approved Islamic Organization has had many roles in carrying out halal certification. This is a strategy owned by AIO to achieve its goal of obtaining halal certification. In this thesis, the writer uses 2 theories to connect between the cases discussed and the theory concerned. The first theory is the theory of political strategy. In Peter Schroeder's opinion, Political strategy is a method for achieving certain political goals. An illustration might be the adoption of new rules, the creation of a new administrative structure within the government, or the execution of deregulation, privatization, or decentralization initiatives. Large-scale initiatives or long-term change simply cannot be accomplished without a political approach.

In this instance, the AIO (Approved Islamic Organization) implemented a plan that involved monitoring the production of beef that would later be approved and exported to other nations. This is an AIO strategy to realize that food that will be sent to countries requesting the export of meat from Australia is guaranteed to be halal because a process has been carried out, namely identification, management, storage and so on. In this case, of course, AIO wants that the intended halal remains in accordance with Islamic law, how to slaughter animals, storage that does not mix with other food that is not classified as halal food and so on.

The second theory used by the author is the theory of political systems. The notion of a political system according to David Easton is a series of processes consisting of many interrelated parts that carry out policies or decisions that are enforced by legitimate powers and bind society. The political system consists of an allocation of values where the allocation of values is coercive which binds society as a whole. The function of the political system is inseparable from the input and output functions of the political system itself.

In the discussion regarding the association carried out by Australian Muslims in obtaining halal certification is an input in the functioning of the political system. The input function can be interpreted as something that shows various effectiveness that allows a system to run. Demands and supports are the two basic categories of inputs that make up a political system, according to Mochtar Masoed's book *Comparative of Political Systems*. These inputs give the system the necessary information or raw resources. In general, input in a political system is manifested into a support (Support) and demand (demand) input is the fuel to ensure the survival of a political system itself. (Chan, et al. 2006)

In this case, the AIO will supervise the food to be certified, whether it will be issued for the domestic market or for export abroad. In carrying out this association, AIO certainly receives support from the environment, such as to carry out supervision. The selected AIO must carry out various procedures, one of which must obtain permission from several mosques. In addition, the Approved Islamic Organization (AIO) is a group that has received the secretary's or delegation's approval in line with the specifications outlined in the ECMMPO.

3. Collaboration between Australian Muslim Organizations and the Government regarding the Halal Label

Australia is home to a number of halal certification organizations. A list of Islamic

groups have Authorized Arrangements (AA) to certify halal meat for export to other nations is available from the Ministry of Agriculture. As of September 2015, there were 22 groups functioning in Australia. Regulations set out by the Australian government regarding halal certification only apply to farmers that export meat. While the majority of this meat may be sold and end up on the domestic market, certifiers that exclusively serve the Australian market do not adhere to any laws, hence there are no laws governing meat that may be sold on the domestic market. (fettayleh.com)

There are three institutions involved in halal affairs in Australia related to the supply of meat and processed meat products for further export to various countries. The first is a company that provides halal meat and processed meat products, the second is the Approved Islamic Organization (AIO), which is a halal certification agency that has been approved by the Australian government based on approval from the export destination country, the third is the government, namely the AQIS division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF) (Kabir, S. 2015). There are several obligations to establish halal certification, including:

1. AA (approved Arrangements) holds power under the ECMMPO which handles halal meat production.
2. An official Australian Government halal stamp, as described in Section 2 of ECMMPO schedule 6, must be present on the meat or on the package to identify it as halal.
3. An AIO recognized by the Australian Government in line with ECMMPO specifications and completely liable for the religious components of halal meat production falls under the Authorized Islamic Organization (AIO) category that will handle halal certification.
4. In the AQIS category
 - a. AQIS and Company must come to an agreement on the AA.
 - b. Will review and confirm the founding rules of all the industry's nonreligious halal meat manufacturing..
 - c. AQIS functions by issuing halal certifications for halal meat that will be exported (as part of

joining an Islamic organization) and restricting its approval to non-religious features (agriculture.gov.au, 2009).

Government regulations are inconsistent regarding monitoring, management and export. In addition, there is a lack of regulations and consistency among local certifications. Therefore, this poses a serious challenge for the producers and suppliers of food. While some organizations offering certification are independent enterprises offering regional certification services for a charge, others are a part of bigger Islamic organizations like the Australian Federation of Islamic Council (AFIC) or Supreme Islamic Council of HALAL Meat in Australia (SICHMA).

Non-Muslim consumers in Australia perceive Halal food to be slightly different from other available foods. It is only a matter of whether the food is Halal or not and the desire of a person with a high religious level to consume Halal food. Halal certification is an improvement that can be made. This is one way for Muslims to be satisfied in consuming food that they consider halal (Poniman et al 2015).

The public is now debating the issue of halal food certification extensively in Australia. This results, particularly in the domestic market, from a lack of consistency and openness. Politician Jacqui Lambie (Senator, Tas), who allegedly threatened to expose the senator's personal expenses to close "legal loopholes" that "may permit the financing of terrorists and Australia's adversaries through halal label money," made the situation worse. (fettayleh.com)

For the implementation of slaughter in the halal category, only a Muslim slaughterer can carry out the slaughtering procedure for halal products. It is a Muslim's responsibility as a competent animal slaughterer to be able to identify whether the carcass is halal or not halal according to established procedures, especially halal according to Islamic law. (agriculture.gov.au, 2009)

According to a prior written agreement, the halal program cannot be amended under any

circumstances and requires the AIO and ATM's consent (Area Technical Manager). 2009 (agriculture.gov.au) Companies that want to produce halal meat or processed halal meat products must have an official permit from the government and meet the requirements set by the government. Requirements given by the government are things that are conveyed in the Approved Arrangement (AA). Before it may be consumed, halal meat must first be verified as such by examination for the presence of an official halal label (or "halal stamp") on the product package. (Mustafa et.al 2013)

According to section 2 of the ECMMP list, the halal label is an official government stamp and is governed and held accountable by AA rules. To guarantee that only halal meat is identified in accordance with section 2 of the ECMMP list, halal labeling processes must be recorded and implemented within the registered firm.

Before the goods is taken from the registered location where the animal was killed or the meat was packaged, halal stamps must be put on the halal label, caramel label, or carton label. (agriculture.gov.au, 2009) In discussing the collaboration between Muslims in Australia and the Australian government regarding the halal label, this is a coalition between AIO and the government, which is contained in the theory described in this thesis regarding the political system which from the input system is support from the government.

This happens in the obligation to establish halal certification where everything that is done by AIO must first be approved by the government. This is contained in the second point that "Halal meat prepared must be identified by the presence of the Australian Government's official halal stamp (as defined in Part 2 of list 6 of the ECMMP) on the meat or on the packaging." And the third point in the Approved Islamic Organization (AIO) category that will manage halal certification is that AIO recognized by the Australian Government in compliance with ECMMP regulations must be entirely in charge of the religious components of halal meat production.

The Australian economy in 2021 shows the results of strengthening with a quite drastic

growth rate, an increase of 2.5% compared to 2010. The increase in the Australian economy is also supported by various improvements made by mining companies which are continuously being carried out, as well as improvements in transportation. In particular, Australia's trade exports saw visible changes from the previous year which resulted in increased economic growth. (tabloiddiplomasi.org, 2012). For more than 200 years Australia has been producing red meat. The livestock and meat industries in Australia have developed rapidly in both dynamic and progressive ways. (Richard W. .2021).

Australian meat producers and processors have worked well to create a good image for Australia in the eyes of the world in producing the highest quality beef and lamb in the world.

Judging from the existing history related to Australia's experience in exporting meat extensively, the Australian livestock industry focuses on meeting customer specifications in order to adapt production and packaging to meet the needs of consumers, with more than 120 countries in the world requesting meat production from Australia. (loveaustralianbeefandlamb.com) Some of the countries that produce meat from Australia are also Muslim countries that produce halal meat in Australia, such as Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and so on.

Australia is the world's largest meat producing country. This makes Australia must meet the demand of producers. With the export of meat consumed by Muslim countries, Australia must have halal certification for its consumption products, this is due to requests submitted by Muslim countries themselves. This has become an Australian trade diplomacy strategy so that the products they produce can be enjoyed by Muslim countries. Because some of Australia's meat exports are meat that will be consumed by Muslim countries (Ying, 2020)

Halal certification in Australia has succeeded in increasing the value of food exports to reach \$13 billion annually. The halal certification process in Australia is a very transparent process. In an effort to determine whether a product will become halal, it is not carried out

for the purpose of gaining profit or as a commercial business. (Afif, 2015)

4. Halal Certification Process by the Australian Government and Muslim Organizations

Meat export activities from Australia to various countries are G to G (government to government) activities so that every decision or policy of the importing country must be submitted to the halal certification body in Australia through the Australian government. (repository.ipb.ac.id) The Australian Government does not intervene on matters related to sharia, namely regarding all decisions related to halal or certain requirements from the importing country. These matters have become decisions set by certification bodies or Islamic organizations that carry out halal certification.

The Australian government checks the 3 elements related to halal meat export activities every 6 months. Examinations conducted by the Australian government on these 3 elements were carried out separately. While the certification body checks the RPH at least once every 3 months or depending on the problems that occur in the RPH. The Australian Government has the Australian Government Authorized Halal Program (AGAHP) which is a part of the AQIS program. For preparing, identifying, storing, and certifying halal export of meat and processed meat products, the application functions as a form of manual. This is comparable to AQIS's objective. (repository.ipb.ac.id) Halal certification involves a comprehensive set of processes, much like any other certification process. This includes:

1. The pertinent food maker or producer submits an application to the pertinent certifying body (eg Halal Australia). Often, this entails giving thorough details on the raw ingredients, additives, and manufacturing procedures.
2. Afterwards, on behalf of the certification organization, a trained individual inspects the production site to see if all pertinent standards have been regularly satisfied; a report on this site inspection should be given. Producers may be ordered to adjust their

production method, ingredients, or supply chain information if anything does not satisfy predetermined requirements.

3. Upon the conclusion of a certification agreement between the applicant and the certifying organization, Halal accreditation or certification is given for a predetermined amount of time. (Murphy, 2016)

Halal regulations in Australia are only carried out for the benefit of exports to Muslim countries, meaning that supervision for halal in Australia is not carried out on the circulation of halal food in the country or the domestic market. Supervision carried out by the government is updating and approving halal certification bodies in the form of an Approved Islamic Organization (AIO) for the benefit of halal meat exports. (repository.ipb.ac.id)

The work that occurs in every request or order for halal meat requires a registered AIO. AIO is responsible for the field of religious supervision, certification provisions for the production of halal meat intended for export to various countries. (repository.ipb.ac.id)

Another control carried out by the government is the use of halal stamps or halal labels. halal label as a controlled and responsible item. Halal certificates issued by AIO are defined as part of state documents in addition to other documents. The document will be attached following each product exported to the destination country. (repository.ipb.ac.id)

The committee looked into third party food certification in 2015 and produced a report on its findings. Halal certification-related concerns are looked at as part of the procedure. The committee suggests the following due to the connection to the halal certification:

1. The government is contemplating overseeing and properly certifying halal meat for export through the agricultural department. In this instance, the government is the only party to sign the halal certificate.
2. The government works to increase support for the nationwide halal certification system through bilateral and global venues.
3. The government takes into account the

prerequisites for halal product certification on the local market in accordance with the established criteria for export.

4. One Halal certification body and one nationally recognized registered brand are being considered by the halal certification sector.
5. Islamically compliant meat processing and product labeling for items made from animal carcasses. (Murphy, 2016)

Halal certification is a hot topic of discussion. especially issues of funding a product to receive halal certification. The price of acquiring a halal certification varies greatly depending on the product, the organization, the location of the certification office, and whether the food will be exported or will only be consumed domestically. Nonetheless, the prices are frequently not very high. (Murphy, 2016)

If any certifications are used by large-scale manufacturers in the marketing of their products through advertising and distribution channels, the price of their products will likely be affected. The Senate Economics References Committee (committee) noted that the evidence from the food certification report in 2015 did not result in an increase in food prices. (Murphy, 2016)

Funds obtained from halal certification income can be used for various purposes other than paying business expenses, can be used for salaries, taxes and organizational activities. These monies may also be used to support other community organisations. The Committee said that "data suggests that there is no clear relationship between halal certification in Australia and the financing of terrorism" in a study on food certification from a third party in 2015.

In discussing the Australian government's policy regarding the halal label, it is an extension of the theory that has been used by the author in this thesis. The author uses the theory of a political system where in this theory there is an output function in it which is a goal or result, in this case the result is the result of obtaining halal certification in the form of the Australian government's policy regarding this halal label.

Making regulations and policies is one of the output functions in the political system. There are interrelated relationships with each other, while the agency that makes regulations or laws as a form of policy is a body that has the authority to carry out a function (Simbolon, 2008). Decisions and actions make up production, according to Easton. The feedback that results from this output has an influence on the input once more. The question at hand is whether the choices and actions are consistent with the support and direction provided by the input. This response will be converted back into the form of demands and supports, continuing the political system's operation. As a result, this job process follows a cycle. (Darry, 2013)

Conclusion.

In this output system, the Australian government is a decision maker and this is a form of policy and feedback from the input that has been explained in the previous sub-chapter. Where is the result of this output that government policy namely:

1. The Australian Government has the AGAHP (Australian Government Authorized Halal Program) program which is one part of the AQIS program.
2. The Australian government does not intervene in sharia issues such as in the slaughtering process. The government is only responsible for certifying goods that are requested by export countries that the goods are halal. This has been submitted to the AIO which handles the halalness of a product.
3. The Australian government checks the 3 elements related to halal meat export activities every 6 months.
4. The government is responsible for the halal stamp on a product. Where there must be a halal stamp on each package or on the food itself.
5. The government is only responsible for the halal production of products to be exported, this means that any production goods that circulate in the domestic market do not interfere with the government.

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