

WARTIME RATIONING



During World War II rationing was introduced in Australia in order to cope with the huge demands placed on agricultural producers and manufacturing industries resources to feed civilians and troops and to support the war effort,

The Commonwealth Rationing Commission was set up in June 1942, introducing personal identity cards and ration books for clothing and food.

Car drivers were issued with enough petrol to drive about 20 miles per week. The new rationing regulations included food items such as meat, tea, butter and sugar as well as clothing and footwear. Prices were pegged and daylight saving and shorter holiday periods introduced to boost production hours. Power blackouts and 'brownouts', standard wartime air raid precautions in cities and coastal areas, also saved precious resources.

Butter rationing was particularly difficult as it was used for both baking and frying and there was no margarine available. Weigh out 170 grams of butter, your weekly ration. Divide it into seven equal parts (one for each day of the week). Is there enough to butter your toast and sandwiches for the week? Remember that it is also needed for baking biscuits, cakes or puddings, all of which were homemade, and for frying foods such as sausages.

Item	Rationing Introduced	Ration	Coupons required	Rationing ended
Petrol	October 1940	Private motorists issued with enough petrol to drive about 20 miles per week		July 1948
Clothing	15 June 1942	112 coupons per year	Men's overcoat – 40 coupons Women's overcoat – 27 coupons Men's three piece, double breasted suit – 42 coupons Women's two piece suit – 29 coupons Women's frocks – 13 coupons All sewing items also required coupons	
Rea	6 July 1942	1/2lb (230 grams) every 5 weeks (45 grams per week) for people over 9 years (changed to every 4 weeks from November 1942)	4 coupons	
Sugar	31 August 1942	2lb (0.9kg) per fortnight (450 grams per week)	1 coupon	3 July 1947
Butter	27 June 1943	1/2lb (230 grams) per person per week (reduced to 3/8lb (170 grams) per week on 5 June, 1944)	1 coupon	
Meat	17 January 1944	People over 9 years of age were allowed 1kg per week and children under 9 were allowed 1/2kg per week. Further reductions	1 coupon	24 June 1948