

Hovercraft May Help Outback

LONDON, Friday (A.A.P.)

—The British Saunders Roe Hovercraft "flying saucer" could transform Australia. Mr. Laurie Gray, an Australian member of the International Shipping Executive, said yesterday.

He said it was the key to developing Australia's outback and visualised that it could put prime Australian beef and lamb, precut and prepackaged, into Britain's shops at prices lower than any of its competitors.

"The greatest barrier to Australia's agricultural advancement is distance," Mr. Gray said.

"Cattle which leave the vast farms in the interior frequently have to be walked hundreds of miles to the abattoirs and railroads over wild and difficult country including swamps.

"They are not in the best condition when they arrive."

Mr. Gray said he thought Hovercraft might be able to pick up 50 to 60 at a time and fly them in hours to slaughter depots.

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"I believe it offers the solution to our problems. No longer need we think in terms of spending fortunes on railways."
