



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Trade Sub-Committee

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 8 September 2014

Chair: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Deputy Chair: Maria Vamvakinou MP

## Australian businesses sharing views on trade with the Middle East

The opportunities and challenges of trading with the Middle East will be explored at a public hearing in Sydney on Tuesday 9 September.

The hearing is part of the Trade sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationships with the Middle East.

Representatives from a diverse range of Australian businesses and also Egypt's Commercial Office will share their experiences of trade between Australia and the Middle East to date, and suggest ways to bolster two-way trade and investment.

The sub-committee will hear from environmental sustainability consultancy, Seventh Sense, which provides sustainability advice, health and safety, public administration and training to projects in Dubai and across the Middle East.

Also appearing are Hassad Australia, which manages a \$425 million investment by the Qatar Government in a range of Australian agri-businesses involved in Merino and Awassi sheep and growing wheat and barley at various farms across Australia.

Financing issues faced by exporters will be discussed by the Bank of Sydney, whose parent company is the Bank of Beirut. The Bank of Sydney supports many Australian companies that import and export goods and services to and from the Middle East.

Australia's red meat and livestock producers, and those involved with live animal exports to the Middle East, will also share their views and experiences with the sub-committee members.

### Public hearing

<b>Date/Time</b>	Tuesday 9 September 2014, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
<b>Location</b>	Northcott Room, Sydney Masonic Conference & Function Centre 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney
<b>Organisations</b>	Seventh Sense; Hassad Australia; Australian Meat Industry Council; Fletcher International Exports; Bank of Sydney; The Links Group; Egypt Commercial Office; Meat and Livestock Australia; Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Livestock Exporters' Council and University of Sydney.

**For media comment:** contact the Trade sub-committee Chair, the Hon Bruce Scott MP on (02) 6277 4949 (Parliament House) or (07) 4662 2715 (Mr Scott's electorate office in Dalby, Queensland).

A **live audio broadcast** of the hearing will be available at [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live)

**For background information:** Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to contribute, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/jfadt](http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au).