



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

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Western Australia.*

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Mr Gerry McInally
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Dear Mr McInally

SUBMISSION ON THE EXPORT CONTROL BILL 2019

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2019 inviting submissions to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Export Control Bill 2019 and associated legislation. This submission is on behalf of the Western Australian (WA) Government.

The WA Government welcomes the consolidation and streamlining of the existing export legislation. After reviewing the Export Control Bill 2019 and associated legislation, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) acknowledges this Bill provides the overarching framework for regulating primary industries and food exports, noting multiple regulatory instruments are provided for in the Bill. Further details to be set out in the relevant commodity specific Rules and other subsidiary legislation will provide greater clarity on how these instruments will be applied, and to which products.

DPIRD has been involved in relevant information sessions and has supported the Federal Department of Agriculture (DA) in engaging with relevant WA stakeholders. DPIRD requests for continued meaningful engagement with DA when the details of commodity specific rules are being developed given the critical importance of exports to WA's primary industries.

One of DPIRD's primary objectives in developing this submission is to ensure that the Export Control Bill 2019 and associated legislation results in no additional or unnecessary regulatory burden being placed on WA's primary industries and food exporters. In particular, DPIRD supports the provisions in the Bill that allow for delegation of authority to or authorisation of third party and State or Territory Government employees in administering the various instruments under the Bill.

One of the key export competitiveness issues frequently raised by WA primary industries and food exporters is the relatively high cost of export accreditation and certification, particularly for small to medium sized exporters seeking to grow and create jobs. DPIRD has previously raised this matter via various submissions to Federal Government reviews, calling for the minimisation of the costs for export certification and registration, including introduction of a sliding scale of fees and longer transition times for small to medium businesses.

DPIRD understands the details on fees and charges will be contained in the relevant Export Control Rules, and reiterates the WA Government's call for minimisation of export regulatory costs to exporters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission into this Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

14 January 2020