



11 November 2014

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Mr D Sullivan
Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
via email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Sullivan

Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement Implementation Bills

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee regarding the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA) Implementation Bills (the Inquiry).

APL is the national representative body for Australian pig producers. It is a producer-owned not-for-profit company combining marketing, export development, research and innovation and policy development to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry.

As an industry that strongly supports the principles of free trade and competes very successfully on domestic and international markets without the benefit of producer subsidies or tariff barriers, APL is firmly supportive of the JAEPA.

APL welcomes the outcome for Australia's pork producers through the reduction (within quota) of the ad-valorem tariff on all fresh, chilled and frozen pork lines and Australia's exemption from Japan's global gate price safeguard.

However, APL questions the need for an arbitrary quota of 14, 000 tonnes when there has been no application of tonnage restrictions to date. Moreover, with recent annual Australian exports to Japan only a fraction of this quota, pork exports from Australia to Japan pose no threat to the profitability of Japanese pork producers. Given the JAEPA has already been signed, APL seeks that the Australian Government requests the abolition of the quota following the conclusion of the implementation period.

APL has previously noted that the continued application of the gate price system remains a barrier to full commercial uptake of exports to Japan under JAEPA. APL seeks that the Australian Government continues to advocate for its removal, for example, at the general review of JAEPA set for the sixth year after entry into force.

Despite the above two concerns, and in order to secure maximum commercial value from the JAEPA, it is important to ensure an early entry into force and implementation of the agreement. Therefore APL encourages the Committee to support the JAEPA Implementation Bills.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Kerr
General Manager, Policy