



## **AgForce Queensland Industrial Union of Employers**

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15 August 2014

The Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Via email: [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au)

To the Committee Secretary,

### **RE: AgForce Support –Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA)**

AgForce is the peak lobby group representing the majority of beef, sheep and wool, and grain producers in Queensland. AgForce represents around 5,000 members and exists to ensure the long term growth, viability, competitiveness and profitability of these industries.

Unfettered market access is our vision for the beef industry and we are therefore supportive of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA) which upon entry into force will deliver preferential trading advantages. We therefore recommend that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties endorse the JAEPA and that binding treaty action be taken without delay.

Industry modelling suggests that the tariff reductions secured under JAEPA will benefit Australian beef export sales by around \$300-\$400m per annum and deliver an increase in the annual gross value of Australian beef production by up to 7 per cent. Whilst JAEPA did not deliver the beef tariff elimination which industry was seeking, AgForce certainly welcomes the reduction in chilled (to 19.5 pc) and frozen beef (to 23.5 pc) tariffs.

AgForce is also supportive of tariff reductions applicable to offal and further processed meat products and the proposed Most Favoured Nation provision.

AgForce understands that the Australian Beef Industry Japan FTA Taskforce has prepared a submission on this matter. It is our pleasure to endorse this Submission and we urge the Committee to adopt their recommendations.

AgForce looks forward to this exciting step forward for Japanese-Australian beef trade. Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Anna Campbell on 0429 649 881 or [campbella@agforceqld.org.au](mailto:campbella@agforceqld.org.au).

Yours faithfully,

**Howard Smith**  
**AGFORCE CATTLE PRESIDENT**