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Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: jsct@aph.gov.au

The Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) regarding the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA).

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

As an industry that firmly supports the principles of free trade and which indeed competes very successfully on domestic and international markets without the benefit of producer subsidies or tariff barriers, APL believes that the outcomes of JAEPA were not sufficient to result in meaningful commercial outcomes for the Australian pork industry.

APL had requested the elimination of both the *ad valorem* and non-*ad valorem* tariffs - those duties comprising the gate price. A reduction in the gate price could allow Australian pork exports to compete with cheaper, subsidised product exported from competitors such as the United States and Canada that would still attract the gate price.

JAEPA resulted in the imposition of a quota on future Australian exports, and a reduction in the *ad valorem* tariff imposed on high-value pork exports by 50 per cent, reducing this tariff from 4.3 per cent to 2.15 per cent. Whilst Australia was excluded from the global safeguard on pork, none of these measures deliver a significant commercial outcome for Australia's pork producers.

APL views JAEPA as a missed opportunity to liberalise trade in pork between Australia and Japan, the world's single largest importer of pork. APL encourages the Australian Government to continue to pursue an ambitious outcome for pork producers under the Trans-Pacific Partnership, of which Japan is a key member.

Yours faithfully,

Sam Lawrence
Senior Policy Analyst