30 October 2018

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

Dear Chair,

The Australian dairy industry, represented by the Australian Dairy Industry Council Inc. and Dairy Australia, notes that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) has adopted a reference from the Minister for Trade to further investigate aspects on the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement, and to that end has announced a further enquiry into aspects of the Agreement.

Dairy is one of Australia's leading rural industries. We employ over 38,000 people on farms and manufacturing plants and contribute $13.5 billion to the Australian economy.

The Australian dairy industry would like to refer the JSCOT to its previous submission on the Peru Australia Free Trade Agreement dated April 2018 (attached) and reiterate its request that the agreement be implemented as soon as possible, preferably within 2018 so that second round tariff cuts can occur on 1 January 2019. When implemented the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement will assist to reduce trade barriers and improve market access.

This agreement provides Australian dairy with access to Peru that was not achieved within the CPTPP agreement. The PAFTA reduces 99.4 per cent of the tariffs Australian exporters have previously faced with Peru. For the dairy industry, tariffs are eliminated on 7000 tonnes of product per annum, growing to 10,000 tonnes (capped amount) in year five. Based on current export volumes, this provides Australia with significant export growth potential.

For further information relating to the above please contact Mr Craig Hough, Director Strategy and Policy, Australian Dairy Farmers Limited at chough@australiandairyfarmers.com.au or Mr Peter Myers Manager International Trade Development, Dairy Australia at pmyers@dairyaustralia.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Richardson
Chair

Australian Dairy Industry Council