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Secretariat
Senate Standing Committees on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
via email fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed China-Australia Free Trade Agreement

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee inquiry into the Proposed China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA).

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 a strong supporter of the ChAFTA.

APL welcomes the outcome for Australia's pork producers through market access to China for all fresh, chilled and frozen pork lines, pork products, offal and live pigs. ChAFTA secures Australia's potential position in a market where some key competitors already have preferential access, particularly Chile and New Zealand and provides Australia with an advantage over its other major agricultural competitors, including the US, Canada and the European Union (EU).

While ChAFTA reduces tariffs applying to Australian pork products, this outcome was not linked to a pork import protocol or export processor accreditation, with both being required before Australia can take advantage of the opportunities provided under the ChAFTA.

Establishing an export business now requires the development of a China import protocol and, concurrently, the accreditation of export establishments, which will take substantial time and sustained engagement. It will also require a significant demonstration of capability to satisfy Chinese authorities of the Australian pork industry's readiness to export. With a number of other Australian commodities and countries seeking similar approvals, this can be challenging both in terms of time and resources for the Chinese and Australian governments.

APL is working with the Australian Government in order to secure maximum commercial value from the ChAFTA. APL encourages the Committee to give the treaty its full support to ensure an early entry into force and implementation of the agreement.

Should you have any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact John McGoverne on 02 62708846 or via email John.McGoverne@australianpork.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Kerr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Deb Kerr

General Manager, Policy