

20 April 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, welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

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.

Any initiative to reduce trade barriers and improve market access is welcomed. In the global dairy marketplace, we are one of the least subsidised and protected industry's in the world. Consequently, we rely on tariff and non-tariff barrier reduction to strengthen our international competitiveness.

While tariffs and quotas are generally transparent and declining over time, the growing range and diversity of behind the border (non-tariff) measures have a major impact upon the incentive to and profitability of exporting. Examples include product labelling, age and testing requirements, certification of dairy products and food safety rules and more broadly, a lack of adherence to sound science principles in the regulatory decision-making process. Provisions in CPTPP commence the process of addressing these pervasive non-tariff barriers, though, much work needs to be undertaken by respective regulatory agencies, post implementation, to put in place measures to systemically resolve them. The ability to continue to use, in all CPTPP markets, common cheese names such as feta, havarti, mozzarella and parmesan, is a key priority.

If this agenda is progressed the dairy industry believes the CPTPP will increase exports to Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam and Peru and cultivate the expansion of regional and global food value chains and manufacturing hubs.

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 Robert Pettit, Manager Trade Policy, Dairy Australia at rpettit@dairyaustralia.com.au.

I wish you well in the inquiry and commend the Parliament of Australia for its work in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Terry Richardson
Chair