



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

13 June 2014

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

Via email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea

The Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) is the peak organisation representing Australia's grassfed cattle producers. CCA was established in July 1979, bringing together for the first time all farmer organisations whose members had beef cattle enterprises. These organisations have a combined membership of more than 14,000 cattle producers and represents more than 50 percent of Australia's cattle herd. The aim of the Cattle Council of Australia is to represent the Australian grassfed cattle industry and in doing so, ensure the sustainability and profitability of the Australian beef industry.

The Cattle Council of Australia has engaged with the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA) process from the outset as it represents a substantial opportunity for the Australian beef industry.

Projections indicated that if Australia failed to ratify a Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of Korea the beef industry would incur a cumulative loss of around A\$1.4 billion over the 15 years that the tariff on US beef into Korea was being eliminated.

The Cattle Council of Australia implores that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties endorses KAFTA and that binding treaty action be taken without delay. It is imperative for the Australian beef industry that KAFTA enters into force in the 2014 calendar year.

Entry into force will ensure that the current 8 per cent tariff differential (Australia and US) will be reduced to a more commercially viable 5.3 percent and that the tariff differential is not greater than 5.4 percent for the remainder of the 15 year phased tariff elimination period. Failure to secure entry into force of KAFTA in 2014 will result in the differential remaining at 8 percent for the remainder of the 15 year tariff elimination period and place Australian beef at a distinct competitive disadvantage in Korea.

The Cattle Council of Australia, in providing this submission, is in full support of a joint submission prepared by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).



The Cattle Council of Australia reiterates the recommendation that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties endorses KAFTA and that binding treaty action be taken without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Ogilvie
President