



13<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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

Via email: [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au)

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

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), the peak body representing the cattle feedlot industry, writes in response to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties inquiry into the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea.

ALFA strongly supports the Korean Australia Free Trade Agreement given the large potential commercial benefits to our sector from tariff elimination (should it come into force). In particular, the agreement is imperative for Australia to minimise our current competitive disadvantage against US beef imports into Korea as they have already concluded a trade agreement with the country.

Importantly, the agreement must enter into force in 2014 to enable the current 8% beef import tariff differential (Australian vs US beef) to reduce and not exceed 5.4% for the remainder of the 15 year phased tariff elimination period. In order for this to occur, the ratification process must not be unduly delayed in either Australia or Korea.

ALFA is a co-signatory to the broader Meat & Livestock Australia submission to this review and accordingly we concur with the detail and recommendations within it.

We recommend that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties endorse the KAFTA and that binding treaty action be taken without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Dougal Gordon  
CEO