

**Subject:** Export Grant Scheme - destructive changes - Urgent Reversal Needed  
**Date:** Tuesday, 13 October 2020 2:56:11 PM  
**Importance:** High

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To the Senate Inquiry into legislative changes to the Export Grant Scheme.

We are appalled to see the proposed changes to the Export Grant Scheme. They are in absolute contradiction to the post-Covid Federal budget handed down just last week!

The Federal Government is purportedly encouraging us to increase productivity, increase manufacturing, increase any aspect of our activities that will contribute to paying off the unprecedented debt Australia now has and which will take many years to reverse.

Increased productivity brought about by increased exports will also put some substance to the endless mantra 'Jobs Jobs Jobs'. Make it more than just the hollow political slogan we've heard trotted out by governments for years. To do this we need to increase exports. Why is the government now reversing its support for exporting at precisely the time it should be doing the opposite?

We are an existing exporter and have been for many years. We are developing new projects which will increase our export activity hugely. The Export Grant Scheme is crucial support for us in continuing to move forward with these projects by offering some government financial support to a large burden that is otherwise carried solely by us. If the proposed negative changes to the Export Grant Scheme go ahead, we will be placed in the position where we will have to consider taking these projects outside Australia where there are also financial and other support considerations. In a global world where every government is in competition with each other, the Australian Government too has to be competitive in supporting its exporters.

We ask that public hearings be held, so that the effect on our future export endeavours can be properly assessed.

Given the above, we cannot believe that such a destructive contradictory set of proposed changes to the Export Grant Scheme will go ahead.

Sincerely,  
Lesley Hammond,  
Director,

