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Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Via email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Australia – Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties consideration of the Australia-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement.

APL is the national representative body for Australian pork producers. APL 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.

The Australian pork industry employs more than 36,000 people in Australia and contributes approximately \$5.3 billion in gross domestic product to the Australian economy. The pork industry contributes approximately 2.13% of total Australian farm production with roughly 1100 commercial pig producers producing around 5 million pigs annually.

As an industry that supports the principles of free trade and competes successfully in domestic and international markets, without the benefit of producer subsidies or tariff barriers, APL welcomes conclusion of the Australia – Hong Kong FTA, as we welcome all efforts to better integrate global trade.

APL supported the negotiation and conclusion of the Hong Kong FTA. Our views on the benefits of the agreement were outlined in our previous submission, provided to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in November 2017. This submission is attached here for ease of reference.

APL's submission called on the Government to secure tariffs bound at zero for Australian pork exports to Hong Kong. We congratulate the negotiators on both sides for securing this important outcome.

APL welcomes the conclusion of the Australia – Hong Kong Investment Agreement, supporting all measures that better facilitate investment into the Australia pork industry.

In conclusion, **APL recommends the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties speedily endorse the Australia – Hong Kong FTA and enable domestic ratification as soon as possible.**

Should you have any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Robertson on 02 62708888 or via email andrew.robertson@australianpork.com.au.

Yours sincerely

DEBORAH KERR
General Manager, Policy