

CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

07 November 2014

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into the Customs Amendment (Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 and Customs Tariff Amendment (Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014

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 Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement process from the outset as it represents a substantial opportunity for the Australian beef industry.

While the objective of total tariff elimination was not met, under the JAEPA there are significant tariff reductions which will have positive implications for the Australian beef industry. Economic modelling suggests that the tariff reductions will benefit Australian beef export sales by around \$5.5 billion over 20 years and deliver an increase in the annual gross value of Australian beef production by up to 7%.

Given the outcomes, the Cattle Council of Australia endorses the recent Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Report (#144) which recommends that JAEPA binding treaty action should be taken.

As an established importer of Australian red meat, the liberalisation of the Japanese import regime provides increased opportunities for Australian beef to remain competitive in this market.

Due to the significant flow through benefits to Australian beef producers with the timely implementation of the JAEPA, the Cattle Council of Australia implores that the Customs Amendment (JAEPA Implementation) Bill 2014 and Customs Tariff Amendments (JAEPA Implementations) Bill 2014 be passed immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Ogilvie
President