



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

Trade Sub-Committee

## **MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 16 October 2014

Chair: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Deputy Chair: Maria Vamvakinou MP

### **Melbourne businesses sharing views on exports to the Middle East**

The opportunities and challenges of trading with the Middle East will be explored at a public hearing in Melbourne on Friday 17 October.

The hearing is part of the Trade sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationships with the Middle East.

Representatives from a diverse range of Victorian businesses, universities, the dairy industry and also the Victorian Government will share their experiences of trade between Australia and the Middle East to date, and suggest ways to bolster trade and investment.

The sub-committee will hear from Ego Pharmaceuticals, which exports skincare products from Victoria throughout the Middle East and has 54 staff in the region.

Also appearing are engineering firms such as the Australian Turntable Company based in Bendigo that design, build and export a range of truck and restaurant turntables to countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Iraq. It recently installed a turntable with a 50m diameter in the world's largest revolving restaurant in the Milad Tower in Tehran.

The Trade Commissioner for Victoria to the Middle East, Africa and Turkey will also appear alongside other Victorian government officials to discuss how the last three state government sponsored Super Trade Missions to the Middle East have helped generate more than \$550 million in export sales to the region.

Mainstream Aquaculture will also explain to federal MPs and senators how thousands of Australian barramundi fingerlings bred at its Werribee hatchery are also destined for the dinner plates of Saudi Arabia.

#### **Public hearing**

*(Interested members of the public and the media wanting to attend must first contact the state parliament offices on **03-8682 2803** to facilitate their access to **Room G3**)*

<b>Date/Time</b>	Friday 17 October 2014, 9:00 am to 2:15 pm
<b>Location</b>	State parliament offices, Room G3, 55 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne
<b>Organisations</b>	Ego Pharmaceuticals; Australian Turntable Company; Meateng; Deakin University; Australian dairy industry; Monash University, the Victorian Government and Mainstream Aquaculture.

**For media comment:** contact the Trade sub-committee Chair, the Hon Bruce Scott MP on **(07) 4662 2715** (Mr Scott's electorate office in Dalby, Queensland).

A **live audio broadcast** of the hearing will be available at [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live)

**For background information:** Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to contribute, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/jfadt](http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt) or by contacting the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2313** or emailing [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au).