



CANEGROWERS

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16 January 2025

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
By email: [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au)

Dear Company Secretary

### **Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties inquiry into the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Australia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd (CANEGROWERS) is a not-for-profit public company with the sole purpose of promoting and protecting the interests of sugarcane growers since its inception in 1925.

CANEGROWERS is the peak body for the sugarcane industry. Our affiliations at the State, National and International level combined with 13 district offices in Queensland ensures that services and advocacy are provided in local communities as well as at the highest levels of industry and government decision-making.

CANEGROWERS strongly supports sugar's inclusion in all trade agreements. Maintaining and improving the terms of trade for Australian sugar depends on: ensuring sugar is included in all trade agreements; defending existing market access; and ensuring third countries are held accountable their international commitments.

Improving the terms of trade for Australian sugar relies on duty free / quota free commitments for sugar being included in all trade agreements Australia negotiates. This is particularly important in the current world trade environment, an environment characterised by supply chain disruptions, geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and one in which the World Trade Organization's (WTO) role in securing new and improved market access commitments for agricultural products is severely limited.

The UAE is a significant importer of raw sugar. While the UAE does not apply a tariff on sugar imports, its WTO bindings provide it with the flexibility to impose a 15% tariff on sugar imports. The CEPA removes this flexibility and with it the threat that any future trade in raw sugar between Australia be encumbered by possible tariff or quota restrictions. Securing duty free access for Australian raw sugar in the CEPA ensures UAE sugar refiners will have the opportunity to access Australian raw sugar on competitive terms.

CANEGROWERS fully supports the Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and recommends its ratification by parliament.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information in relation to this submission.

Yours Sincerely



Dan Galligan  
Chief Executive Officer  
[canegrowers.com.au](http://canegrowers.com.au)

OUR  
VOICE  
GROWING  
QUEENSLAND