



15 October 2020

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By Email to: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

We write in response to the proposed changes to the Export Marketing Development Program (EMDG).

Our understanding is that the proposal is to create a regime whereby exporters and potential exporters can be paid the grant before the funds have been expended.

A similar proposal was made in relation to the Research and Development Tax Incentive program three years ago and was subsequently discarded.

The EMDG program is highly valued by applicants and we believe that it significantly adds to their ability to succeed in developing overseas markets.

It is our opinion that the proposed change will exponentially increase the complexity of the program for the exporter, the consultants, such as ourselves and for AusTrade.

In addition, the rules that will govern the program changes have not yet been formulated and, as such, we are unable to assist and advise clients as to the process that they can expect.

Our Recommendation

Because of the extent of the unknown factors in relation the program, we recommend that Option A be adopted in order to provide time to complete the program definition process.

- a) Amending the Export Market Development Grants Act 1997 and introducing simplified legislation that incorporates the key principles detailed in Recommendation 2.*

Yours faithfully,

Rodger Morton
Principal