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Inquiry Secretary - Trade
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Suite R1-120, PO Box 6021
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
(Via email:

Re: Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationships with countries of the Middle East

I am writing to provide Sheepmeat Council of Australia's (SCA) submission to the above consultation currently being conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

SCA is the national Peak Industry Council representing and promoting the needs of Australia's lamb and sheepmeat producers, including the live sheep export industry.

The Middle East is a major market for Australian sheepmeat and livestock – with the sheepmeat and live sheep trade generating in excess of \$633 million in export returns annually. In 2013, Australia exported 59,777 tonnes of lamb, 40,911 tonnes of mutton to the Middle East.

The livestock export sector is a significant contributor to the profitability of our industry, and it underpins markets across the country. In 2013, Australia shipped 1.94 million sheep to countries of the Middle East.

SCA believes the strength of the Australian sheepmeat industry's trade with the Middle East will continue to be underpinned by livestock exports and frozen and chilled product. Working together will assist to improve farm-gate returns for producers, long-term commercial relationships in the region and build 'brand Australia'.

SCA endorses the submission made by Meat & Livestock Australia on behalf of the red meat industry. The sheepmeat industry through Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), funds improvements in market access and growing demand for our livestock and meat products in the Middle East.

SCA also supports the submission made by the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council, the peak industry body for the Australian livestock export industry, which provides further detail on the challenges and opportunities for the livestock export trade to the Middle East.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kathleen Ferme
Chief Executive Officer, Sheepmeat Council of Australia



SCA is the national Peak Industry Council representing and promoting the needs of Australia's lamb and sheepmeat producers.

The objects of SCA are;

- to represent and promote the interests of Australian sheepmeat producers
- to carry out activities necessary for the advancement of the sheepmeat and live sheep export industries;
- to collect and disseminate information concerning the sheepmeat and live sheep export industries;
- to co-operate with industry stakeholders and organisations at the state and national level and overseas;
- to maintain interaction and co-operation with its Members, relevant Government departments and authorities at Federal, State levels, and local government levels, and with other relevant industry organisations;
- to promote the development and resourcing of the agricultural and pastoral industries of Australia;
- to act as the Prescribed Body for the sheepmeat industry in Australia within the Red Meat Industry Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Australian Meat and Livestock Act 1997 (the Act).

SCA represents sheepmeat producers in Australia and provides a mechanism to bring a diverse range of issues and needs to the policy making process. The Council draws on many formal and informal processes to achieve this. Principal amongst these is input from the state farming organisations, which have extensive networks within their jurisdictions.

As the recognised peak body for the sheepmeat industry under the Act, SCA sets the strategic objectives to be pursued by the levy funded organisations Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), Animal Health Australia (AHA), and the National Residue Survey (NRS), examining and approving their programs and budgets. We are involved in priority setting for industry R&D and marketing activities both domestically and internationally as set out in the Red Meat MoU. Under the MoU SCA assesses the performance of services delivered by expenditure of lamb and mutton levies.