



AUSTRALIAN RED MEAT INDUSTRY

19 August 2022

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

I am writing on behalf of the Australian red meat industry¹ in response to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties inquiry into the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement between Australia and India (AI-ECTA).

Our sector is supportive of the AI-ECTA outcome – with industry’s objective of securing liberalised trade for sheepmeat exported to India to be realised.

AI-ECTA will eliminate the current 30% import tariff levied on Australian sheepmeat on entry into force, thereby increasing trade certainty and allowing industry to respond more fully to the ongoing demand in India for premium product.

The agreement will fit well with Australia’s diversified portfolio of sheepmeat export markets, whereby exporters carefully match specific cuts with market segments and cuisines – in this case predominantly servicing the 5-star catering and high-end retail segments in India.

In addition to eliminating sheepmeat tariffs, the agreement binds the tariff on raw skins and hides at zero and eliminates the 10% tariff on processed skins/hides.

Overall, AI-ECTA reflects the commitment by both Australia and India to pursuing trade reform. That said, this goal is unfinished, as reform of Indian import arrangements for other red meat products was excluded from the ECTA outcome.

As a consequence, the Australian red meat sector looks forward to working collaboratively with both Governments on seeking additional trade benefits - via completion of, and incorporation of relevant outcomes, in the envisaged comprehensive agreement (AI-CECA) which is currently under negotiation.

Given the highly beneficial sheepmeat outcome, the Australian red meat industry recommends that the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties endorses the AI-ECTA – and that binding treaty action be taken without delay. The subsequent expedited entry into force of the agreement will help ensure the aforementioned gains are realised in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McCallum
Global Manager - Trade & Market Access
Meat & Livestock Australia

¹ Red Meat Advisory Council; Australian Livestock Exporters’ Council; Australian Lot Feeders’ Association; Australian Meat Industry Council; Cattle Council of Australia; Goat Industry Council of Australia; Sheep Producers Australia; Meat & Livestock Australia; Australian Meat Processors Corporation; Australian Livestock Export Corporation