

MEDIA STATEMENT
31 October 2017
For immediate release

Resolution of Trade Disruption to China

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) welcomes the news received from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) of the lifting of the suspension on import clearance by Chinese regulators against 4 AMIC members and JBS Australia yesterday.

“As the Peak Industry Council (PIC) representing the red meat export sector, we welcome this news from our great trading partner China,” said AMIC Chair Lachie Hart. “This industry employs almost 50,000 full time staff up and down the supply chain, as well as over 100,000 extra people through multiplier effects. We are the largest beef exporter and provide a large amount to this country’s GDP. This issue was impacting our members, and in turn the whole supply chain,” said Mr Hart. “AMIC worked ‘hand in glove’ with DAWR on this issue and this is a result of 3 months of dedicated work by DAWR and AMIC,” Mr Hart stated.

“Further, AMIC again thanks Minister Steve Ciobo, and his office team, for his tireless efforts in working towards a conclusion to this trade issue. This was a large team effort, led by Minister Ciobo, DAWR departmental staff and AMIC and shows how true collaboration can work” said Mr Hart.

Further to this, AMIC is also exceptionally appreciative of then-Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Barnaby Joyce as well as Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Craig Laundry for their efforts in lifting these temporary suspensions on these 6 establishments.

“This outcome also shows that recent unhelpful media was ‘well off the mark’ regarding industry cohesiveness and our industry relationship with our great trading partner China. Working with China and respecting their requirements continues to be paramount for our industry, not just for beef exporters but the whole supply chain,” said Mr Hart. “Issues of market access remain at the forefront of AMIC. With our strong relationship with DAWR staff, and guided by the Trade Minister and his team, AMIC continues to work towards success in market access for our industry.”

AMIC will continue to work with the DAWR and DFAT on the final details to then recommence trade for these 6 establishments. There still remains one AMIC member that DAWR are working through requirements for their suspension to also be lifted. Further, AMIC will now look to work with DAWR and Chinese regulators on the fulfilment of the signed Joint Statement (March 2017) between Premier Li and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on access for chilled beef and new listings for other Australian establishments.

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