

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Australian Meat Industry Council ready to work with new Agriculture Minister

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC), representing thousands of businesses in the retail, smallgoods, red meat processing and export sector, has welcomed the appointment of David Littleproud as the new Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

AMIC CEO Patrick Hutchinson says the organisation's members are keen to work closely with the new minister on a range of important issues, including improved market access and reducing red tape for red meat processors.

"We've enjoyed a strong working relationship with Mr Littleproud's predecessor Barnaby Joyce, and we appreciate his contribution to our sector and agriculture in general over the past few years. He hands over the reins at a positive time in the history of Australian agriculture," Mr Hutchinson says. "We'll continue to work closely with Mr Joyce in his new portfolio, Infrastructure and Transport, especially as the new inland rail project takes shape and in finding supply chain efficiencies."

AMIC would also like to acknowledge the positive working relationship developed with the outgoing Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Darren Chester, and Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Keith Pitt, and thank them both for their efforts in support of the red meat industry.

Mr Hutchinson says AMIC is advocating on a number of fronts for its members and the wider sector.

"We're looking forward to meeting Mr Littleproud and working closely with him to progress a range of issues which are crucial to this sector, a major employer in Australia and a significant contributor to the national economy.

"As we head in to 2018 there is a lot of important work to be done to ensure that all parts of the agribusiness value chain have the best opportunity to maximise existing markets, reach into new markets and continue to build a thriving and sustainable industry."

Mr Hutchinson says Mr Littleproud's agribusiness background should serve him well in his first ministerial portfolio.

"This is a complex and vitally important portfolio and we congratulate Mr Littleproud on his appointment.

"We anticipate a positive and collaborative relationship, focused on great outcomes for the whole agribusiness sector," Mr Hutchinson says.

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