

CPTPP Coordinator

Free Trade Agreements and Stakeholder Engagement Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

RE: CPTPP Post Implementation Review: Call for Submissions

Dear CPTPP Coordinator,

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to this implementation review. AMIC is the peak industry body representing 2,000 post-farm gate red meat businesses. AMIC members include meat processors, smallgoods manufacturers, boning rooms, cold stores, wholesalers and distributors, through to exporters and independent retail butchers.

The Australian meat supply chain makes a substantial contribution to the national economy each year, accounting for over \$13.5 billion in value-add and \$67.7 billion in industry turnover in 2020-21. A large proportion of this value is generated through exports, with meat and offal exports valued at \$16.1 billion in 2021-22. While these exports got to a very broad range of markets globally, a substantial proportion of our trade is covered by Australia's Free Trade Agreements which often provide competitive advantages over other meat exporting countries, making the agreements vital to the red meat industry.

In relation to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the utility of the agreement for the red meat industry is limited by the fact that Australia has alternative free trade agreements with many CPTPP parties. In most cases, bilateral agreements with countries under the CPTPP provide better economic (quota and tariff) provisions than the CPTPP itself.

However, for some specific products to certain markets, Australian exporters of meat and meat products are using the CPTPP for better tariff conditions. These include:

- Improved beef tariff conditions for exports to Canada, Japan, and Mexico.
- Improved sheep meat tariff conditions for exports to Mexico.
- Improved pork tariffs conditions for exports to Japan and Mexico.

In addition to these exceptions, there are rules that exist under the CPTPP that provide additional flexibility in technical market access requirements to some trading partner markets. For example, the ability to make *declarations of origin* rather than requiring purchasing of *certificates of origin* that is required for some markets.

As a general comment received from our members, it has been noted that plurilateral agreements such as the CPTPP provide additional avenues of international market access opportunities and promote more liberalised access for Australia's export products. The application of broader rules across a wider grouping of markets is also a benefit, resulting in broad support from AMIC and our members.

If you would value any additional feedback from AMIC in relation to this review, please don't hesitate to get in contact with Sam Munsie, General Manager – Trade and Technical Affairs on smunsie@amic.org.au.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Hutchinson

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Meat Industry Council

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