

Media Release

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Trans-Pacific Partnership: Historic opportunity for dairy must not be missed

The national dairy organisations of Australia, New Zealand and the United States have published a joint appeal highlighting the need for improved dairy outcomes under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

“The TPP offers an historic opportunity to address a whole range of distortions and ensure that consumers throughout the region have access to the safe, high quality products available from our three countries,” Australian Dairy Industry Council Chair, Noel Campbell said.

“However, for this deal to be commercially meaningful, markets like Canada and Japan must demonstrate that they are prepared to significantly increase their existing dairy market access positions.”

Sustained economic and population growth is driving an increase in dairy demand for the Asia-Pacific, but to take full advantage of this unprecedented opportunity, TPP must be ambitious, comprehensive and commercially meaningful.

“While there are some positive indications of progress being made, vital issues are still to be addressed in Japan to ensure that the Australian dairy industry can improve its competitive positioning in that key market,” Mr Campbell said.

Focused dairy market access negotiations with Canada are also of particular concern.

“It is imperative that Canada provide significantly increased market openings for all dairy products if it is to remain a participant in the treaty,” Mr Campbell said.

While traditional tariff barriers remain widespread for dairy products, trade is also restricted by more subtle trade distorting non-tariff measures such as the European Union’s aggressive stance on Geographical Indications, as demonstrated in their trade agreement with Canada.

The Australian, New Zealand and U.S. dairy industries all expect that the TPP will also address these non-tariff barriers, especially in the Japanese and Canadian markets where these restrictions are most pervasive.

“Our respective industries each have additional criteria by which we will judge the final TPP outcome, but the points detailed above are commonly shared as key priorities across the region’s largest dairy trading countries,” Mr Campbell said.

The U.S., New Zealand, and Australian dairy industry associations are committed to a transformative outcome that provides opportunity for our farmers and processors, and look forward to working with all participants of the TPP to reach a successful conclusion.

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The TPP is a multi-country Free Trade Agreement (FTA) currently under negotiation between Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Japan, the United States, Vietnam, Mexico and Canada.

The Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) is the dairy industry's peak policy body. It co-ordinates industry's policy and represents all sectors of the industry on national and international issues through its two constituent bodies, Australian Dairy Farmers Ltd (ADF) and the Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF).

It aims to foster, promote and protect the interests of the Australian dairy industry by driving a whole of industry approach to dairy policy and the development of the dairy industry.

Dairy Australia is the national services body for the Australian dairy industry. The company acts as the collective investment arm of the industry, investing in essential research, development, extension and industry services.

Media enquiries:

Mark Pearce
Media Manager, Dairy Australia
(03) 9694 3809
mpearce@dairyaustralia.com.au

Emily Martyn
Communications Officer, Australian Dairy Farmers
(03) 8621 4200
communications@australiandairyfarmers.com.au