

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Wednesday, 31 January 2018

WIMMERA, MALLEE & MILDURA FARMERS TO REAP BENEFITS FROM PACIFIC TRADE DEAL

Agricultural industries right across the Electorate of Mallee are set to benefit once the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) comes into effect. Beef, sheep, wool, cereals, grains, dairy, wine and horticulture industries will all see improvements, being able to sell to more countries at reduced tariffs.

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad said the deal is giving local farmers new and improved access to markets around the Pacific Rim.

“The deal is going to see better prices and a better return flowing directly into our farmer’s pockets and into our local economy,” Mr Broad said.

“We will make our local product more competitive, with more buyers competing for our wool all the way to our wine.”

Across the board, beef exporters can expect reduced tariffs across CPTPP countries including the complete elimination of tariffs within 10 years in Canada, Peru, and Mexico. Sheep meat exporters will see the immediate elimination of tariffs to all CPTPP countries bar Mexico as soon as the deal is signed. Raw wool exports will also experience no tariffs.

Improved market access and reduced tariffs will come into play for cereal and grain exports, currently contributing \$1.6 billion to the Australian economy. Dairy exporters will see reduced tariffs gradually leading to elimination in some countries as well as new market access for butter, cheese and milk powders in Mexico.

Together, our wine and horticulture exports to CPTPP countries are valued at more than \$1.2 billion, with the agreement set to benefit those farmers greatly through elimination and reduction of tariffs and better market access for Australian oranges and fruit juices in Japan.

“Once signed this trade deal has the capacity to really help the industries in our patch grow, to bring more money to our local famers and economy and to employ more workers down the track,” Mr Broad said.

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Trade Ministers in participating countries are expected to sign the Comprehensive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership on March 8.

-ENDS-

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