

8 May 2008

Mr David Mortimer, AO
Chair
Review of Export Policies and Programs
c/- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
BARTON ACT 0221

Dear Mr Mortimer,

On behalf of the Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) I welcome this opportunity to submit our views on current export policies and programs.

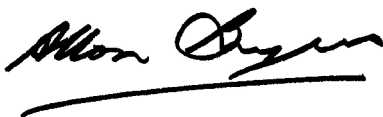
As the national policy body of the Australian dairy industry, the ADIC represents the interests of Australian dairy farm families and businesses, dairy manufacturers and traders across all states and territories.

The dairy industry relies heavily on export market opportunities for its prosperity. Since the early 1980s our profitability has been driven by export market prices and returns. Therefore, improved access and the ability to continue successfully exporting to international markets is central to our future success. Export market settings have taken on even more importance in recent years given the difficult times our farmers have faced during the drought.

The trading environment for foodstuffs is currently favourable. But this should not detract from the importance of fostering new export opportunities for Australia. Experience shows that commodity prices are cyclical. Meanwhile the commitment to trade reform of some countries appears to be waning. New challenges, linked to climate variability and energy security, are also emerging that may affect our future export competitiveness. In this environment maintaining a robust export policy framework is essential to provide our industry and the regional communities that depend on it with viable options for future growth, collaboration, innovation and adaptation.

I look forward to working with you and the government to further develop a prosperous relationship.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Burgess', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Allan Burgess
Chairman