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# Warren Cauliflower Group (Inc.)

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04/07/05

Mr Ric Wells  
China FTA Task Force  
Department of Foreign Trade and Investment  
R.G. Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221

Dear Ric,

*Subject: The Australian Horticulture Industry and the proposed FTA with China*

Our committee represents 80% of the export cauliflower growers of Australia. We wish to register our concern that the full impact of any FTA agreement with the Chinese Government on Australian horticultural producers be considered thoroughly within the negotiation process.

Our export driven industry, based in Manjimup Western Australia has endured considerable financial pressure in our traditional markets of Singapore and Malaysia over the last two years. Chinese exporters with a raft of concessions provided by their government, but not available to Australian producers from our government, have increased their market share immensely to our disadvantage. This is having dire consequences on our regional economy and the very future of our family farms. The next threat we face is that more of their chemical residue untested produce will be imported into Australia by our largest retailers, further displacing our local growers who farm under world wide recognised quality assured programmes. Cheaper doesn't mean safer or better for our consumers in Australia.

Since it is the Australian Federal Government that requests a "level playing field" in world agricultural trade, we request that you don't leave us on a muddy field, with a wet heavy ball, kicking uphill into a stiff sea breeze.

Yours sincerely,



*JG* Craig Garrett  
Chairman WCG (Inc)