



AUSTRALIAN OLIVE
ASSOCIATION

20 May 2021

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Australia-UK FTA Coordinator
Regional Trade Agreements Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Via email: ukfta@dfat.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement – Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil

We are writing to you in relation to the current negotiations for the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the importance of Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) and Australian olives having tariff free access to the UK market.

Who we are

The Australian Olive Association is the prescribed industry body representing all olive growers, service providers and processors in Australia.

The Australian Olive Industry

Olives are grown throughout temperate Australia such as the South Eastern and South Western Seaboard regions of the continent. Two regions in particular account for an estimated 70 per cent of Australia's current production, i) north-central Victoria and ii) north of Perth Western Australia.

The Australian Industry estimates that around 10 million trees are grown on 450 commercial groves covering more than 30,000 hectares, with 70 per cent of the olive trees concentrated in 20 groves.

The 2021 olive harvest is currently under way and we are expecting a record year for production with estimates of Australian olive oil production at over 20,000 tonnes (22.5



million litres) and potentially higher. In addition, newly planted olive groves will be coming into production over the next few years further increasing future production.

The vast majority (over 90%) of Australian Olive Oil achieves the highest quality known as Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO). This is in stark contrast to olive oil produced in the Mediterranean and European countries which produce only about 25% EVOO.

Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil is wholly originated from olives grown in Australia.

Extra Virgin Olive Oil – Health, Nutrition and Wellness

Extra Virgin Olive Oil has many well evidenced health benefits both as an individual food and as an ingredient in the Mediterranean diet. Specifically, Extra Virgin Olive Oil contains bioactive components which deliver antimicrobial, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties vital for good health and well-being.

Importantly, the European Food Safety Authority allows the following health claim for Extra Virgin Olive Oil, “Olive Oil polyphenols contribute to the protection of blood lipids from oxidative stress”. In other words, Extra Virgin Olive Oil is beneficial for cardiovascular health. These health benefits have resulted in an increase in EVOO consumption in Australia and globally.

Australia is working to have the biochemical components that define Extra Virgin Olive Oil included in the Codex Alimentarius standard so that consumers world-wide can benefit from the health properties of Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

Tariff free availability of Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil in the UK would provide better market opportunities for Australian olive growers and processors and a high quality food that imparts well defined health benefits for UK consumers.

However, at the moment a duty of 104 £ / 100 kg of Extra Virgin Olive Oil applies and is a significant barrier for the Australian industry to access the UK market.

The Australian Olive Association seeks improved market access for Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a goal of zero tariff on olive oils exported from Australia in the FTA with the UK.

Thank you for consideration of the above. If you need further information please contact me by phone on 0476 760 160 or email ceo@australianolives.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

AUSTRALIAN OLIVE ASSOCIATION LTD.



Michael Southan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER