

29 April 2022



AUSTRALIAN OLIVE
ASSOCIATION

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Australia-UAE CEPA Coordinator/Australia-GCC FTA Coordinator
Middle East FTAs Branch
Regional Trade Agreements Division
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Via email: UAECEPA@dfat.gov.au; GCCfta@dfat.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Australia-UAE CEPA and Australia-GCC FTA – Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Table Olives

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 was a record with 23 million litres of Australian olive oil produced from around 131,000 tonnes of olives. The industry expects production to keep increasing with the use of best practice grove management, best practice extra virgin olive oil production and newly planted olive groves coming into production over the next few years.

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 major Mediterranean and European olive oil exporting countries which produce only about 25% EVOO.



Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Australian Table Olives are wholly originated from olives grown and processed 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 our 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. It is this opportunity that the Australian Olive Industry would like the rest of the world to be able to enjoy.

Tariff free availability of Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Table Olives in the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf Cooperation Council members countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman Qatar, Saudi Arabia as well as the United Arab Emirates would provide better market opportunities for Australian olive growers and processors to supply a high-quality food that imparts well defined health benefits for UAE and other GCC consumers.

However, a duty of 5% on Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Table Olives applies to the UAE and GCC and is a significant barrier for the Australian industry to access these markets.

The Australian Olive Association seeks improved market access for Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Australian Table Olives with a goal of zero tariff on these products for export from Australia to the UAE and GCC.

Thank you for your 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