

# **Economic and Geographical Advantages for Importation of Live Geese from China to Australia under the China–Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA)**

## **I. Background and Shared Understanding**

### **1. Live Geese as a Valuable Agricultural Commodity**

Live geese represent a significant agricultural commodity with high demand within specific cultural markets. Their importation offers opportunities for diversified protein sources, value-added processing, and strengthened agricultural ties between China and Australia.

### **2. Regulatory Recognition in Both Jurisdictions**

While China and Australia classify and regulate live animal imports differently, both authorities recognize the importance of safe, sustainable trade:

In China, livestock production is highly developed with established breeding and quarantine systems managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

In Australia, live animal imports are regulated within the broader biosecurity framework, subject to strict statutory oversight by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

### **3. Alignment with Trade and Food Security Priorities**

As governments increasingly prioritize supply chain resilience, food security, and trade diversification, the importation of live geese offers complementary approaches that can contribute positively to national agricultural objectives and community needs.

### **4. Need for Livestock-Specific Regulatory Approaches**

Given its biosecurity risks, breeding cycles, and transport requirements, live goose

importation should not be regulated solely through generic livestock concepts. Consideration of dedicated, species-specific regulatory mechanisms would support appropriate governance and sustainable sector development.

#### 5. Benefits of Mutual Recognition and Standards Alignment

Mutual recognition of quarantine protocols and regulatory alignment for live poultry would reduce technical trade barriers, improve regulatory certainty, and foster stable, high-quality industry growth to the benefit of both countries.

#### 6. Importance of Transparency and Scientific Collaboration

Modern regulatory systems emphasize transparency, risk-based oversight, and data driven decision making. Establishing structured mechanisms for bilateral information exchange and scientific cooperation is essential to safeguarding biosecurity while supporting innovation and trade growth.

## **II. Priority Implementation Measures**

### 1. Establishment of a China–Australia Joint Livestock Regulatory Working Committee

To give practical effect to trade facilitation chapters of ChAFTA by establishing a standing, cross-agency committee for regulatory cooperation and coordination in relation to live poultry.

Co-Conveners (As specified in ChAFTA)

- Australia: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
- China: General Administration of Customs (GACC)

Recommended Members

- Regulatory authorities, including the Australian Government Chief Veterinary

Officer and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. In addition, other key stakeholders include, but are not limited to, industry bodies, research institutions, and logistics providers.

#### Key Responsibilities and Deliverables

- Play a role of independent and professional oversight body for the implementation of livestock provisions of the ChAFTA.
- Identify gaps, barriers or issues that prevent the proper implementation of trade facilitation for live geese and provide appropriate proposals for both countries to adopt.
- Development of a Live Poultry Mutual Recognition Roadmap, addressing:
  - Quarantine standards and disease-free zone certification
  - Transport welfare and biosecurity protocols
  - Mutual recognition of health inspections and licensing.

#### 2. Unified Framework for Quality and Safety of Live Geese (Standards Alignment)

To harmonize regulatory standards for live geese, breeding stock, and related genetic materials, thereby reducing compliance costs, supply disruptions, and regulatory inconsistencies, while maintaining robust biosecurity and transparency standards.

- Undertake evidence-based reviews of live poultry import conditions currently listed under Australia's Import Risk Analysis (IRA), incorporating Chinese breeding and quarantine methods to meet Australian biosecurity requirements.
- Recognize and include GACC endorsed disease free zones on Australia's permissible import regions list, supported by committee's consensus and documented health data.
- Explore alternative, compliant regulatory pathways for live geese that cannot currently be eligible listed due to procedural barriers.

- Align regulation of feed and veterinary substances with Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) requirements and, where appropriate, jointly support the development of supplementary provisions.
- Implement a targeted Standards Alignment Program focusing on:
  - ✓ Biosecurity requirements and sampling protocols.
  - ✓ Limits for avian influenza, Newcastle disease, and other pathogens.
  - ✓ Analytical and identification methodologies, including Health Certification and traceability systems.

### 3. Pilot Programs for Importation Quotas and Regional Deployment (ChAFTA Annex)

To operationalize and classify the ChAFTA trade quotas, including live poultry, by establishing a dedicated category that directly addresses industry demand and supply chain needs.

- Establish a "Live Goose Import Pilot Stream":
  - i. Allocate up to specific quota places per year for approved breeding farms, Chinese-invested enterprises, Australian agricultural research organizations, and processing facilities where requested and applications lodged.
  - ii. Permit importation from certified disease free zones aged according to welfare standards to engage in breeding, processing, and research activities; and
  - iii. Apply language and documentation exemptions consistent with arrangements contemplated during the ChAFTA negotiations, supported by then grandfathering provisions.
  - iv. Provide targeted federal incentives to support live poultry planning in regions with limited local supply or high demographic demand.

- Develop a Live Goose Health Certification Recognition Pathway:

Apply fit-for-purpose assessment criteria covering farm qualifications, veterinary

oversight, and transport proficiency or exemptions. Build up risk assessment for contingency situations.

- Strategic Deployment:

Prioritize importation placement in areas experiencing supply shortages and in alignment with national agricultural priorities, including regional development, food diversity, and export re-processing.

### **III. Structural Issues Affecting the Livestock Sector in Australia**

Despite agricultural trade becoming a cornerstone of the Australia-China relationship, several structural policy gaps continue to constrain its contribution to the economic system.

#### **1. Economic Advantage Recognition**

Live geese importation was considered a potential trade avenue when the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) was approved. However, live poultry, especially live geese, remains the only sector under the agreement that has not clearly moved out of streamlined fast-track processing, limiting access to affordable protein and integrated supply chains.

#### **2. Limited Integration into Supply Chain Systems**

There is an urgent and compelling need to grant access for live geese importation, even within the current limitations of supply chain integration. Despite not being fully included in major processing and distribution channels, importers stand ready to pioneer the establishment of robust cold chain and live-haul networks. Substantial international evidence demonstrates the economic efficiency and cost-effectiveness of such integration, highlighting the significant benefits that could be realized if live geese importation is enabled. This petition underscores the pressing importance of taking decisive action to allow live geese imports, ensuring that Australia can fully harness the opportunities of integrated agricultural models and meet the growing

demand for diverse protein sources.

### 3. Alignment with International Classification Systems

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) includes dedicated chapters for poultry health, enabling standardized coding of disease status, certifications, and interventions. This development supports international comparability, trade, and data integration, and provides a strong foundation for broader system-level recognition and integration.

### Conclusion

The recommendations outlined in this submission are included to:

- Translate ChAFTA's high-level commitments into actionable and institutionalized cooperation mechanisms
- Strengthen bilateral trust across regulatory, scientific, and industry domains
- Promote the safe, evidence-based, and sustainable integration of Live Goose Importation within Australia's agricultural system
- Deliver mutually beneficial outcomes for governments, industry stakeholders, and economic growth

I respectfully submit these recommendations for consideration and stand ready to engage constructively with relevant authorities in both countries to support their implementation.

Best regards

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