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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
by email submission

To whom it may concern,

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the General Review of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

APL is the national peak industry representative body for Australian pork producers. APL is a producer-owned company and Research and Development Corporation (RDC) responsible for marketing, export market access, research, innovation and extension and strategic policy advocacy to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry.

APL holds several official roles on behalf of the Australian pork industry and is the primary contact regarding pork industry research, development and extension priorities, current industry evidence and information, and strategic policy needs. APL is unique in this way, representing every aspect of the Australian pork industry.

APL is:

- The RDC for the Australian pork industry. Established through Federal legislation, APL is responsible for leading research, development, and extension in partnership with the Australian government and the research community. Our statutory obligation is to deliver industry innovation and research and development services on behalf of all industry levy payers.
- The market access, trade and marketing arm of the industry, including managing industry campaigns such as "Get some pork on your fork".

- The national peak body for the Australian pork industry. We represent pork producers and the supply chain across jurisdictions and within national and state and territory representative frameworks.

- Leading the Australian pork industry's Sustainability Framework implementation, supporting benchmarking and accountability against the goals within the four sustainability pillars.

- The pork industry signatory to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Deed (EADRA), representing the entire pork supply chain within Animal Health Australia, and where required, within the decision-making structures which would manage an emergency animal disease response.

During 2024, the Australian pork industry contributed more than $6.9 billion[1] to the Australian economy. This figure represents the over-arching contribution to the economy including primary and secondary processing. The industry produced 470,502 metric tonnes[2] of pork. All fresh pork in Australia is domestically sourced, with around 85% of Australian pork produced used domestically and the high value export market supporting the domestic market taking 57,294 metric tonnes[3] in the 2024 calendar year.

RCEP General Review Comments

Since its entry into force, RCEP has contributed to a more predictable and streamlined trading environment across member economies. The agreement has complemented existing trade agreements and provided a common framework supporting trade and investment throughout the region.

From the perspective of the Australian pork industry, the principal challenges to trade within RCEP markets are not generally tariff related. Instead, exporters continue to encounter non-tariff barriers. This includes issues associated with import permit processes, product classifications, establishment listings, certification requirements, and regulatory transparency. Continued efforts by RCEP members to improve transparency, consistency, and the timely resolution of technical market access issues would further enhance the practical benefits of the Agreement.

APL supports consideration of measures that:

- Improve transparency of import requirements and regulatory processes.

- Strengthen mechanisms for addressing non-tariff barriers and technical trade issues.

[1] Acil Allen (2025) – 2024 Economic contribution of the Australian pork industry report. Page 17
[2] ABS (2025) – Table 13. Red meat produced – pig meat: all series (tonnes) (March to December 2024 data). Access 23 June 2025 Livestock Products, Australia, March 2025 | Australian Bureau of Statistics
[3] APL (2024) – Import and export report December 2024. Available Import Export Report December 2024.pdf

- Promote greater consistency in the interpretation and application of import conditions across RCEP markets.

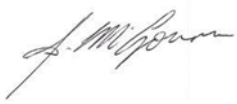
- Enhance engagement between governments and industry to identify and resolve emerging trade issues.

Agriculture remains an important area of opportunity under RCEP. Continued cooperation between members to facilitate trade, improve regulatory transparency, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens will assist exporters in realising the full benefits of the Agreement.

Overall, APL considers RCEP to be operating effectively and supports ongoing efforts to ensure the Agreement remains practical, relevant, and responsive to the needs of industry.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment. Please do not hesitate to contact John McGoverne, Acting General Manager of Policy, and Industry Relations via email at john.mcgoverne@australianpork.com.au, if you would like to discuss the areas raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely,



John McGoverne

Acting General Manager of Policy, and Industry Relations