

24 October 2017

Export Legislation Taskforce
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
Via email: exportlegislation@agriculture.gov.au



RE: Export Control Bill 2017

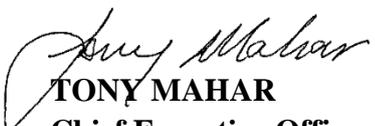
The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the *Exposure Draft Export Control Bill 2017*. The NFF supports the draft Bill and its aim to streamline and strengthen current export legislation. The NFF is the peak national body representing farmers and, more broadly, agriculture across Australia. Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF. The NFF is committed to advancing Australian agriculture by developing and advocating for policies that support the profitability and productivity of Australian farmers.

The NFF is of the understanding that current export policies will not change as part of this process and that current legislation will continue to apply until it sunsets in 2020. Beyond the legislation, existing Regulations and Orders will be replaced by a set of Export Control Rules that will be developed next year in consultation with industry. In future, minor changes to the Rules will be able to be made by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, making the system much more responsive and flexible to changes in technology and the global trading environment. The NFF seeks clarity on what constitutes a “minor” change and how future industry consultation mechanisms will apply when minor changes are made. Moreover, while the NFF is largely supportive of this change, the NFF requests that the Department consults closely with impacted industries as the Rules are initially developed.

Furthermore, the NFF would like to raise the issue of traceability along the agricultural supply chain in the current *Export Control Bill 2017*. The practicalities and realities of some commodities, especially bulk commodities such as grain, do not allow for traceability back to individual producers. Consequently, the NFF is of the view that the current *Export Control Bill 2017* needs to be more specific on its position on traceability.

For further information on this submission please contact NFF General Manager for Trade and Economics Scott Kompo-Harms at skompo@nff.org.au or 02 6269 5666.

Yours sincerely


TONY MAHAR
Chief Executive Officer