# What the UAE free trade agreement means for Australian agriculture: video transcript

(Duration 2 mins 23 secs)

November 2024

## Introduction

This is the transcript of a video filmed with Tina Hutchison (Deputy Secretary of the Agriculture Trade and Regulation Group, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and Tony Mahar (outgoing CEO of the National Farmers Federation) on the benefits of the Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

## Transcript

[Video begins]

Tina Hutchison: The new free trade agreement between Australia and the United Arab Emirates, or UAE, is a win for Australian producers and will strengthen our already strong relationship with the UAE. Our trade was worth 1.7 billion last financial year, making it Australia's 11th largest agriculture, fisheries and forestry export market.

Tony Mahar: The Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, or free trade agreement, will be a great win for Australian farmers. What it will mean is that the tariffs are removed on things like beef, sheep meat, oilseeds, seafood, dairy products. This will mean that Australian farm products are more affordable and more competitive on global markets and provide further opportunities for Australian producers to export their great food and fibre.

So this will provide about $50 million in terms of additional benefit to Australian farmers. So the removal of tariffs means that we can export more products like beef like sheep meat like oilseeds, dairy products, seafood. The opportunities are greater for Australian farmers to get their products onto the supermarket shelves in those countries. That means more opportunity to sell and more opportunity for farmers to be productive and profitable.

Tina Hutchison: This is Australia's first FTA with a country in the Middle East and it sets a great precedent for trade in the region.

Tony Mahar: We know, the disposable income in some of these countries is increasing and they're looking for increased quality, sustainability, excellent quality food and fibre that Australian farmers are terrific at producing.

We have to continue to develop markets, to continue to diversify and continue to be a reliable supplier. So, you know, things like this economic partnership agreement or free trade agreement are integral to the growth of the agriculture sector across the country.

Tina Hutchison: It's also of note this is the first FTA to contain a stand-alone chapter on sustainable agriculture and food systems, recognising agriculture's essential role in ensuring food security, driving climate resilience, emissions reductions and other environmental outcomes. This ensures that sustainability measures are not applied with a one size fits all approach and do not create barriers to trade for our world-class agricultural exports.

Very importantly, it also contains the first stand-alone chapter in an Australian trade agreement dedicated to First Nations Trade and Co-operation.

[Video ends]

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia’s agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.