



LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM AUSTRALIA'S FOOD INDUSTRY

Dear Prime Minister,

In December last year, the **Australian Food Story: Feeding the Nation and Beyond** report, an Inquiry into food security in Australia by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, was tabled.

The Australian food industry believes the nation's future food security and prosperity is dependent on adopting the key recommendation from the report, the establishment and implementation of a **'National Food Plan', the first of its kind in Australia**. We would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the report which includes seeking your support for this important initiative.

The recommendations in the report are the culmination of a year-long process where the food industry was consulted directly on the steps needed to ensure all Australians have consistent, dependable, access to healthy, nutritious food which includes those on lower incomes and in remote communities.

A clear message from the submissions to the Inquiry was that business as usual, as we plan for the future, is simply not an option. Covid, the unprecedented number of ongoing, catastrophic weather events, numerous geo-political tensions plus many other disruptors highlight Australia's supply chain vulnerabilities and the need to adopt a nationally coordinated Plan, something other developed countries are already implementing.

The submissions to the Inquiry also highlighted the need to focus not only on improving food supply chain resilience but how we, as a nation, seek improvements in supply chain management with the objective of boosting business, creating jobs and increasing broader economic development, in areas like food manufacturing. In terms of future projections and opportunity, the CSIRO predicts the Australian food and agribusiness industry could be worth \$250 billion by 2030 if growth can continue at historical rates (~2.4% per annum).

For context, input into the recommendations came from across Australia's food supply chain, from paddock to plate, including the \$80 billion agricultural sector, the \$130 billion food manufacturing sector, the \$60 billion food service sector, plus Australia's largest food charities, organisations involved in food waste reduction, food research and many more.

We would like to acknowledge and commend the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture for its diligence in the consultation process and in ensuring most industries recommendations were included in its report.

We believe in the importance of developing a National Food Plan in partnership with government and support the establishment of a National Food Council (Industry) to support this process.

This letter is endorsed by the following industry organisations; National Farmers Federation, Australian Meat Industry Council, AUSVEG, Foodbank Australia, Australian Chicken Meat Federation, Master Grocers Association, Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology Limited, Australian Retail Association, Australian Trucking Association, Foodservice Suppliers Association of Australia, Independent Food Distributors of Australia, Refrigerated Warehouse and Transport Association of Australia Ltd, Australian Association of Convenience Stores, Rural Aid and the Restaurant and Catering Association.

