



AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK EXPORTERS COUNCIL



AUSTRALIAN LOT FEEDERS ASSOCIATION



RED MEAT ADVISORY COUNCIL

2022 – 2023 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

JANUARY 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- INTRODUCTION..... 3**
- Recommendations..... 4**
- 1. our people 6**
 - Workforce labour and skill needs..... 6
- 2. our customers, consumers and communities..... 7**
 - Meat category branding 7
 - Industry showcase events..... 8
- 3. our livestock..... 10**
 - Biosecurity 10
- 4. our markets..... 11**
 - Market access and maintenance..... 11
- 5. our environment..... 13**
 - Sustainability..... 13
- 6. our systems 14**
 - Cost of regulation 14
 - Traceability..... 14
- conclusion..... 17**

INTRODUCTION

The Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to detail the red meat and livestock industry's priorities for the 2022-23 Budget.

RMAC is Australia's only policy leadership and advisory forum made up of producers, lot feeders, processors, manufacturers, retailers and livestock exporters, representing the entire supply chain from paddock to plate. RMAC members are the following prescribed industry representative bodies under the Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997 (AMLI Act):

- Australian Livestock Exporters' Council,
- Australian Lot Feeders' Association,
- Australian Meat Industry Council,
- Cattle Council of Australia,
- Sheep Producers Australia, and
- Goat Industry Council of Australia

This submission is made in partnership with pre-budget submissions provided by RMAC members, and compliments some key recommendations made by the National Farmers Federation (NFF) in their 2022-23 pre-budget submission¹.

RMAC acknowledges and thanks the Australian Government for key investments in the 2020 – 2021 budget period, including the Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters Package (\$328m); and commitments to support trade (\$96.7m), safeguarding Australia from exotic pests and diseases (\$400m) and improving the perishable goods supply chains (\$5.4m) in the 2021 – 2022 budget.

The red meat and livestock industry's reputation for product quality is renowned around the world. Our 80,000 businesses and Australia's 405,000 red meat employees and 24 million domestic consumers of red meat, and millions of export consumers that support them, continue to be a major contributor to Australia's economy and a lifeblood for our rural and regional areas.

Building on our strong foundation, the red meat and livestock industry set an ambitious vision for 2030. Red Meat 2030, a strategic partnership between nine industry partners launched in 2019, is an industry-led 10-year plan to create profitable, environmentally sustainable and customer focussed red meat businesses. It identifies an ambitious economic opportunity targeted at doubling the value of Australian red meat sales, **delivering \$57 billion** in growth to Australian agriculture by 2030.

This is more than half the Australian Government's \$100 billion-dollar target for Australian agriculture. We ask that government continues to come to the table with policy and investments to enable this ambitious nation building vision to be realised.

¹ <https://nff.org.au/submission/nff-2022-23-pre-budget-submission/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

RMAC's recommendations for the Australian Governments 2022-23 budget contained within this submission are aligned with the following six strategic priorities identified to provide the necessary focus and direction to deliver on the Red Meat 2030 vision:

1. **Our people** – People see being part of the Australian red meat and livestock industry as attractive now and into the future.
 - 1.1. \$30 million over four years to provide a holistic Vocational Educational and Training (VET) package of programs and incentives to attract students into agricultural vocations and develop an integrated curriculum for agriculture as a career choice.
 - 1.2. \$30 million as seed funding to introduce a centrally managed fund to reduce the administrative costs and drive uptake of workforce visa and migration programs utilised by the red meat and livestock industry.

2. **Our customers, consumers and communities** - People feel good about eating Australian red meat. Our customers, consumers and communities recognise the vital role our industry plays in food production and food security, and trust us to deliver high value, high quality products.
 - 2.1. Ensure fairness and equity in marketing of meat brands by closing the loophole within the Food Standards Code to stop manufactured plant protein products from using livestock images and descriptors including 'meat', 'beef', 'goat' and 'lamb'.
 - 2.2. Establish a new Australian Consumer Law Information Standard under section 134 of Schedule 2 to the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 to resolve the current misleading labelling practices by plant protein manufacturers.
 - 2.3. \$12 million of Federal Government investment to enhance and promote the quality, profitability and sustainability of the red meat and livestock industries through the following industry showcase events:
 - Beef Australia 2024 (\$6 million)
 - LambEx (\$4 million over four years)
 - BeefEx and SmartBeef (\$1 million over four years)
 - LIVEXchange (\$1 million over four years)

3. **Our livestock** - We set the standard for world class animal health, welfare, biosecurity and production practices.
 - 3.1. The Federal Government commit to a long-term sustainable, renewable funding arrangement for Australia's biosecurity system.

4. **Our markets** - We improve the economic resilience for our industry by increasing access to, and the performance of existing and new markets.
 - 4.1. The Federal Government commit to investing the required resources to ensure existing export markets are maintained and achieve optimal utilisation and returns.
 - 4.2. \$30 million over four years to ensure the continuation of the highly successful Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) program.
 - 4.3. \$300 million for the extension of the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) until airfreight cost normalise following the re-opening of Australia's international borders.

5. **Our environment** - We demonstrate leadership in sustainability, delivering on community expectations in the areas of land, water, biodiversity, climate variability and biosecurity.
 - 5.1. \$2 billion over the next four years to support the continuation of pilot and expansion of initiatives such as the carbon, biodiversity and enhanced remnant vegetation programs.

- 6. Our systems** - We are a trusted brand because of our integrity systems, built on trust and respect that supports strong partnerships and sharing of information, reducing unnecessary industry and government regulation.
- 6.1. \$220 million over two years to extend the congestion busting funding commitment, enabling the delivery of genuine regulatory reform and cost savings for the benefit all export industries.
 - 6.2. The Federal Government commit to establishing a national statutory body or regulatory authority to be responsible for managing Australia's livestock traceability system.
 - 6.3. \$40 million over three years to implement an Electronic Identification system for sheep and goats to match the \$40 million investment Australian sheep and goat producers will commit through the purchase of tags.
 - 6.4. \$14.5 million Federal Government commitment to fast-track the national whole of supply chain adoption of the electronic National Vendor Declaration's that will improve data accuracy and deliver a central repository for more streamlined and efficient jurisdictional access to movement/ traceability information.

1. OUR PEOPLE

Workforce labour and skill needs

The red meat and livestock industry supports Australian Government investment to attract, retain and improve the skills of workforce labour that is crucial to the international competitiveness of the sector and the regional and metropolitan communities in which they reside.

The industry's labour and skill needs has historically been addressed through a range subsidy programs, adjustments to Vocational Educational and Training (VET) and tertiary education frameworks and various visa and migration programs. Unfortunately, the gap between the skill and labour needs of the sector and available workers remains. The current Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this shortage. The issue needs to be tackled globally and holistically.

Ongoing Federal Government investment of \$30 million over four years is needed to provide a holistic VET package of programs and incentives to attract students into agricultural vocations and develop an integrated curriculum for agriculture as a career choice.

Recommendation 1.1:

\$30 million over four years to provide a holistic Vocational Educational and Training (VET) package of programs and incentives to attract students into agricultural vocations and develop an integrated curriculum for agriculture as a career choice.

A major barrier to uptake of the workforce visa and migration programs utilised by the red meat and livestock industry is the upfront administrative costs to both businesses and employees. Overcoming this major barrier is critical if these programs are to reach their full potential.

RMAC support's NFF's proposal of establishing a centrally managed fund to contribute towards the cost of travel and accommodation, in addition to application fees, renewal fees, contributions and mandatory payments. NFF anticipates that approximately \$30 million of seed funding is required to cover the initial year of operation, after which time the operation of the fund should be cost neutral.

This arrangement would have the added benefit of being a central, government managed program for administering up-front payments and reimbursements, thereby limiting scope for allegations of or actual abuse and claims of employers making improper or egregious deductions.

Recommendation 1.2:

\$30 million as seed funding to introduce a centrally managed fund to reduce the administrative costs and drive uptake of workforce visa and migration programs utilised by the red meat and livestock industry.

2. OUR CUSTOMERS, CONSUMERS AND COMMUNITIES

Meat category branding

It is unacceptable that highly processed plant-based protein made from imported ingredients are allowed to be labelled as Australian meat. Every day 445,000 proud graziers, livestock transporters, meat workers and butchers work together to provide families with natural, nutritious and healthy meat.

The AMLI Act defines meat as the flesh of an animal fit for human consumption. Yet highly processed, unnatural plant-based products, that are in no way similar to the red meat produced by Australian farmers, denigrate the brand and reputation of natural Australian beef, lamb and goat by deliberately trying to use piggyback marketing to sell an inferior product. The argument isn't about manufactured plant-based proteins existence, it is that they need to be called what they are, and that's not meat.

While the Food Standards Code currently defines meat, unfortunately, a loophole created in 2016 to allow for the definition to be ignored when it comes to plant-based proteins. The meat industry wasn't engaged in this process and all submissions made to the process were dairy related. Five years on and this loophole is now being exploited by companies selling highly processed plant-based protein products. The Code already defines what meat is, all that needs to be done is for the loophole to be closed.

Regulating a new national information standard for meat labelling will also resolve the current misleading labelling practices. As was done with country-of-origin labelling and more recently, free-range egg labelling, implementing a national information standard under Australian Consumer law will underpin a fair go for all competing products in the marketplace.

The Australian red meat and livestock industry is therefore seeking minimum regulated standard to prohibit:

- the use of plant protein descriptors that contain any reference to animal flesh or products made predominately from animal flesh, including but not limited to “meat”, “beef”, “goat” and “lamb”, and
- the use of livestock images on plant protein packaging or marketing materials

Infringing a trademarked brand to sell another product is unlawful in Australia and so should be the use of our industry's collective owned meat category brands if the product is not from the flesh of an animal.

Consumer research has proven that confusion is widespread in the marketplace. Last year a nationally representative survey of 1,000 Australians undertaken by ISO accredited market research agency, Pollinate, found that six in-ten respondents mistook a plant-based meat product (out of the five tested) as containing animal meat.

The status quo needs to be fixed as it is currently failing consumers and Australia's red meat and livestock industry.

Recommendation 2.1:

Ensure fairness and equity in marketing of meat brands by closing the loophole within the Food Standards Code to stop manufactured plant protein products from using livestock images and descriptors including 'meat', 'beef', 'goat' and 'lamb'.

Recommendation 2.2:

Establish a new Australian Consumer Law Information Standard under section 134 of Schedule 2 to the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 to resolve the current misleading labelling practices by plant protein manufacturers.

Industry showcase events

The following red meat and livestock industry showcase events are extremely important to celebrate the industry, exchange information and network, with both international and domestic speakers that inspire, enthuse, and inform delegates:

- Beef Australia - world class beef exposition.
- LambEx - Australia's premier sheep and lamb conference.
- BeefEx - the grain fed beef industry showcase event.
- LIVEXchange - the major showcase event for Australia's livestock export industry.

The demonstrations, trade shows, seminars and property tours that occur during these events impart knowledge and understanding of the latest research, solutions and products. The events also provide an avenue to showcase, recognise and reward industry successes, including the awarding of a number of industry accolades.

The events also provide the unique opportunity for the Australian red meat and livestock industries to build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, the general public and international delegates. Delegates include domestic and international industry and supply chain members and participants, researchers, academics and school and university students.

Industry showcase events are important to provide an insight into the professionalism of Australian red meat and livestock industries through staging a professional event of high quality, style and content. The events allow the red meat and livestock industry sectors to seek and impart information throughout the value chain, from grassroots producers through to food service providers.

The events also encourage members of the red meat and livestock industry to adopt best practice, improving productivity while satisfying consumer quality expectations, driving the future profitability and sustainability of the industry.

Industry showcase events provide high-quality industry information in an entertaining format, including practical, take-home messages that can be immediately applied on-farm, enhanced by a strong trade exhibition. They impart delegates with renewed positivity about the industry and motivation to seize highlighted opportunities. Industry showcase events also provide a forum for connectivity and networking between all sectors of and suppliers to the red meat and livestock value chain.

Australian Federal Government investment of \$12 million in the red meat and livestock industry showcase events is needed to ensure the events can proceed and achieve the intended outcomes described above.

Recommendation 2.3:

\$12 million of Federal Government investment to enhance and promote the quality, profitability and sustainability of the red meat and livestock industries through the following industry showcase events:

- Beef Australia 2024 (\$6 million)
- LambEx (\$4 million over four years)
- BeefEx and SmartBeef (\$1 million over four years)
- LIVEXchange (\$1 million over four years)

3. OUR LIVESTOCK

Biosecurity

RMAC commends the Federal Government's \$400 million commitment over four years to safeguard Australia from exotic pests and diseases. However, RMAC supports the NFF's contention that a strong, well-resourced, efficient and innovative biosecurity system that protects Australia's agriculture industries, natural environment, community and economy from the damaging impacts of pests and diseases needs a long-term sustainable funding model that goes beyond the current budget period.

Australia remains free of many damaging pests and diseases found elsewhere in the world, which brings many benefits. However, the volume of incoming cargo, vessels and passengers continues to grow, heightening the risk of major biosecurity threats entering and establishing in Australia. Not only does this status protect the environment, community and agricultural industries from the direct damaging impacts of these pests and diseases - it also provides a competitive advantage when marketing our produce overseas.

Red meat and livestock export markets demand high-quality, safe products, and market access often relies on being able to demonstrate freedom from certain pests and diseases. It follows that Australia's favourable pest and disease status contributes to our produce being both highly competitive and sought-after on the world market. Maintaining this status is central to the red meat and livestock industry's growth ambitions.

Recommendation 3.1:

The Federal Government commit to a long-term sustainable, renewable funding arrangement for Australia's biosecurity system.

4. OUR MARKETS

Market access and maintenance

Trade and market access are vitally important to the Australian red meat and livestock sector, with over 70 percent of the beef, veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat produced in this country exported. Red meat and livestock global supply chains enable Australian farmers production to be sold to consumers throughout the world. Recent diplomatic tensions and Covid-19 related impacts to the global economy has and continues to cause disruption to these supply chains, and government action is needed.

RMAC commends the Federal Government on the recent successful negotiation of the United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement. It provides another example of the Federal Government ability to improve and expand Australia's market access. However, the maintenance and utilisation of existing markets should not be forgotten. There is little benefit in opening new markets at the cost of lucrative existing markets. RMAC therefore recommends that the Federal Government commit \$60m over four years to double the Australian Government technical market access negotiation capacity for Australian food exports. This will ensure existing export markets are maintained and achieve optimal utilisation and returns.

Recommendation 4.1:

\$60m over four years to double the Australian Government technical market access negotiation capacity for Australian food exports to ensure existing export markets are maintained and achieve optimal utilisation and returns.

RMAC and its members welcomed the Federal Government's \$72.5 million Agri-Business Expansion Initiative, which has been instrumental in providing a pathway to new markets and greater export diversification. The red meat and livestock industry has particularly welcomed the Agricultural Trade and Market Cooperation (ATMAC) program, which has put the broader industry at the centre of the Governments international market access and trade diversification activities.

The ATMAC program is hugely influential in facilitating the export agenda and will be critical in supporting cooperative activities and projects that help Australia's agricultural sector to open, improve and maintain access to overseas markets. RMAC therefore supports the NFF in seeking that Government commit to funding this program in the long-term, with an additional \$30 million over four years being allocated to the ATMAC program.

Recommendation 4.2:

\$30 million over four years to ensure the continuation of the highly successful Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) program.

Air freight prices have risen by three to seven times the pre-Covid-19 average and are not expected to fall in the foreseeable future. Combined with significant shortage of chilled and refrigerated containers for sea-freight, and port delays, red meat exports have very few commercially viable pathways to international markets. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on both air and sea freight, increasing costs and disrupting supply chains, and Federal Government assistance is needed.

The red meat and livestock industry accepts that the cost for airfreight post-Covid-19 will be significantly higher than historical airfreight charges, and it will be up to industry to navigate this cost

environment. However, current prices are heavily inflated due to Federal and state government restrictions on air travel, necessitating the ongoing support provided by the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM).

RMAC therefore supports the NFF seeking Federal Government commitment to funding the IFAM program until all domestic borders have been opened to international visitors (and airplanes).

Recommendation 4.3:

\$300 million for the extension of the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) until airfreight cost normalise following the re-opening of Australia's international borders.

5. OUR ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability

In 2017 the Australian red meat industry committed to the aspiration target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 (CN30). This was based on research undertaken by a consortium of organisations led by Australia’s national science research agency, CSIRO. The research showed it was possible for Australian red meat production to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, through continued efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve on-farm husbandry practices and land management and store carbon in vegetation and soils. Carbon neutrality by 2030 will be achieved while maintaining land productivity and herd and flock numbers.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) developed the CN30 Roadmap for industry, which describes what a carbon neutral Australian red meat industry means, why industry has set the target, the work areas industry will focus on between now and 2030, and how the industry can execute those work areas.

Agriculture has already done much of the heavy lifting on limiting carbon pollution. Net greenhouse gas emissions from red meat production have fallen 57 percent since 2005, representing by far the greatest reduction by any sector of Australia’s economy.

Technologies and practices that are being adopted include improved animal genetics, efficient rumen function and on-farm husbandry practices to reduce emissions intensity (per unit of meat produced). Other technologies require further research and development to verify environmental and economic benefits. These include new feed supplements, pastures and legumes, dung beetles, and developing scalable, accurate and cost-effective methods for measuring soil carbon. RMAC therefore supports the NFF’s recommendation of \$2 billion over the next four years to support the continuation of pilot and expansion of initiatives such as the carbon, biodiversity and enhanced remnant vegetation programs.

The red meat and livestock sector has carried a significant burden from environmental regulation in the past. Unfortunately, we continue to see negative headlines around red meat and livestock’s impact on our environment, and not enough coverage of the positive, proactive steps our forward-thinking industry is taking.

Demonstrated commitment to environmental stewardship, through initiatives such as CN30, enables ongoing trust and support for the red meat and livestock industry. It underpins Australia’s position as a responsible producer of high value, clean, safe and natural protein.

Climate change is already impacting the industry and ongoing, constructive policy is required to support transition and adaptation while protecting agriculture from increased costs that cannot be passed forward. The red meat industry’s CN30 goal is one example of the broader agricultural industry’s efforts to move towards carbon neutrality.

Recommendation 5.1:

\$2 billion over the next four years to support the continuation of pilot and expansion of initiatives such as the carbon, biodiversity and enhanced remnant vegetation programs.

6. OUR SYSTEMS

Cost of regulation

The cost of regulation is inhibiting the red meat and livestock supply chain. Australian Government congestion busting funding commitment announced in 2020 to assist the regulator to improve systems and processes and deliver regulatory efficiency was well received by industry. Significant work has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment since then. However, the promised efficiencies have not yet been delivered.

Exporters' international competitiveness has been significantly eroded due to the disproportionately high cost of Australia's international freight supply chains. To use the livestock export sector as an example, the current forecast cost recovery measures for the livestock export industry threatens to make many businesses unviable. The cost of the regulator has tripled in the last three years, with the cost of regulation for the current year only palatable due to the Australian Government congestion busting funding commitment. Without extending the funding, the potential efficiency and effectiveness gains will be lost.

Noting these significant trade disruptions, measures to reduce the cost of trade should be the priority, and the Australian Government should not be imposing further costs on agricultural exporters, particularly noting that competitors do not place similar imposts on their farm exports.

Recommendation 6.1:

\$220 million over two years to extend the congestion busting funding commitment, enabling the delivery of genuine regulatory reform and cost savings for the benefit all export industries.

Traceability

RMAC welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, the Hon. David Littleproud on 24 January 2022 of the Federal Government's \$68.4 million investment in agricultural traceability. This announcement signals that the Federal Government is taking a leadership position on traceability in agriculture, with investment to encourage the adoption of enhanced traceability and credentials which will support the sector reaching the government's goal of \$100 billion in farmgate value by 2030.

A key focus needs to be improving the effectiveness of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for the identification and traceability of foot and mouth disease susceptible species. NLIS reflects our commitment to biosecurity and food safety and facilitates a competitive advantage in the global market as accurate and timely traceability is extremely important for domestic consumer confidence as well as export trading partners.

However, international competitors to Australia in the red meat and livestock sector are rapidly advancing their respective traceability systems to a level that threatens Australia's position as a leader in livestock traceability and product integrity. More importantly, the threat of international trading partners becoming increasingly aware of the deficiencies in our traceability system is growing, which exposes our sector to unacceptable risk.

SAFEMEAT, a consultative partnership consisting of Federal Government and the red meat and livestock industry representatives, provides a platform for engagement, collaboration and for strategic

input and advice on the meat safety systems and policy in place throughout the production supply chain. SAFEMEAT partners, in recognition that now is a once in a generation opportunity to address long standing barriers to effective traceability, presented the *Reform recommendations for Australia's livestock traceability system* final report to the National Biosecurity Committee in March 2020. This report contained the following five NLIS reform recommendations:

1. A national statutory body or regulatory authority be established and be made responsible for managing Australia's livestock traceability system.
2. Investment be made into a traceability and data management system that will have the capability to handle all livestock species.
3. National mandated digital/electronic identification (eID) for all livestock species be phased in beginning in 2021 and be completed no later than 2025
4. The cost of establishing these recommendations be shared between all levels of government and industry and that a long-term sustainable funding mechanism be established to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the system.

Given the inherent complexity of traceability, it is only through a high level of industry and Government cooperation and collaboration that the necessary evolution to the system can be achieved with required level of urgency. Federal Government commitment is needed to establish a national statutory body or regulatory authority responsible for managing Australia's livestock traceability system and to assist in phasing in eID's for all livestock species.

The implementation of the reform recommendations will form the foundation for the Federal government to fulfil its broader agricultural traceability objectives and will reinstate Australia as the global leader in livestock traceability systems.

The *Improving traceability for sheep and goats - Update of the 2010 NLIS (sheep and goats) Business Plan report*² estimated the additional annual cost of implementing an electronic identification system for sheep and goats between \$18.7 and \$26.7 million each year over a three-year period. The costs at farm level (eID tags only, excluding on-farm readers) are estimated at between 47.3 and 52.8 per cent of the industry total.

Recommendation 6.2: The Federal Government commit to establishing a national statutory body or regulatory authority to be responsible for managing Australia's livestock traceability system.

Recommendation 6.3: \$40 million over three years to implement an Electronic Identification system for sheep and goats to match the \$40 million investment Australian sheep and goat producers will commit through the purchase of tags.

The National Vendor Declaration (NVD) is a key underpinning of the red meat industry's integrity system, enabling important information about livestock management and movement history to be shared through the value chain. Until recently the NVD has been largely a paper-based system.

As a key imperative of the SAFEMEAT Initiatives Review, a scoping study was conducted in 2013 by MLA to assess the technical and commercial barriers to the broad adoption of a national electronic NVD (eNVD). The study identified that the current paper based NVD system costs the industry \$13.4m

² The Centre for International Economics: *Improving traceability for sheep and goats - Update of the 2010 NLIS (sheep and goats) Business Plan 2019*

per annum in processing time, with 43 percent (\$5.8m) of this cost attributed to the reprocessing of NVDs at feedlots, saleyards and abattoirs.

With an overarching objective of strengthening red meat and livestock traceability and integrity, the scoping study proposed that the eNVD system should be focussed on simplifying the task of data capture; improving the accuracy of the data being supplied; enabling industry scale analytics; and improving overall levels of NVD compliance.

During 2014, MLA developed a proof-of-concept eNVD system and conducted a small trial to test the system in a commercial environment. Since then, a central online platform has been developed and implemented for the creation and retrieval of eNVDs. Uptake has, however, been slow. Unless the complexity of the different supply chains is taken into account (i.e. the level of existing technology adoption, infrastructure, staff capability, connectivity, business goals) then it is likely that adoption across whole of supply chains will continue to be slow.


The *SAFEMEAT Reform recommendations for Australia's livestock traceability system* final report details that a co-investment of \$14.5 million by the Federal Government is required to ensure full supply chain uptake, as there is insufficient capacity to drive adoption at the rate required to effect the change required nationally. Based on a 2013 eNVD business case, the annual industry costs associated with the use and processing of paper based NVDs is estimated to be \$13.4 million. Not accounting for additional industry and public benefits relating to improved traceability and product integrity, the payback period for the proposed investment would be within two years.

Recommendation 6.4:

\$14.5 million Federal Government commitment to fast-track the national whole of supply chain adoption of the electronic National Vendor Declaration's that will improve data accuracy and deliver a central repository for more streamlined and efficient jurisdictional access to movement/traceability information.

CONCLUSION

RMAC thanks the Federal Government for consideration of our key economic policy and investment initiatives and looks forward to Budget 2022-23.



Alastair James
Chief Executive Officer
Red Meat Advisory Council