

MASSIVE EXPORT SUPPORT PACKAGE TO KEEP TRADE ROUTES OPEN

COVID-19 FACT SHEET

Keeping agricultural, fisheries and tourism exporters afloat during the pandemic.

The Australian Government has announced a \$170 million exporter support package to back Australia's agricultural, fisheries and tourism exporters.

Getting the export sector back on its feet is crucial to reducing job losses through the crisis and a critical part of the ultimate economic recovery.

This package includes:

- \$110 million International Freight Mechanism to help get high-quality produce into key overseas markets through the facilitation of freight flights, with return flights to bring back vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment.
- Injecting an extra \$49.8 million into the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) program in the 2019-20 financial year to allow exporters and tourism businesses to get additional reimbursements for costs incurred in marketing their products and services around the world.
- Around \$10 million in Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) levies will also be waived for all Commonwealth fishers, ensuring they do not have to pay Commonwealth levies for the remainder of 2020.

The initiative is part of the Australian Government's \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund to support regions, communities and industry sectors

that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

The COVID-19 coronavirus crisis is placing immense pressure on Australian exporters, many of whom felt the earliest and deepest aspects of the economic downturn.

By getting flights off the ground, full of Australian produce, the Government is supporting our farmers and fishers who have been hit hard by this crisis.

This is about making sure our farmers and fishers can get their high-quality product out of Australia and into high-demand markets helping to protect global good security.

Necessary public health restrictions are already placing massive pressure on business viability and job security. Australia cannot afford for our farmers, fishers and exporters to be under similar pressure just because they can't get their goods onto a plane.

When these flights return to Australia there will be capacity for them to transport vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment which will be critical to the ongoing health response.

This temporary action will help Australian producers protect the jobs of those who rely upon Australia's safe, quality food.

Fast facts...

- The Australian Government has announced a \$170 million exporter support package to back Australia's agricultural, fisheries and tourism exporters.
- The Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 coronavirus totals \$320 billion across three packages.
- The package includes the \$110 million International Freight Mechanism to help get high-quality produce into key overseas markets.
- Around \$10 million in Australian Fisheries Management Authority levies will also be waived for all Commonwealth fishers.