

Launch of the Trade Barriers Register

Red tape, unnecessary technical regulations, opaque standards and discriminatory practices hurt Australian exporters' ability to compete in global markets. The process for identifying and managing such challenges can be unclear—both domestically and internationally.

That's why today the Export Council of Australia (ECA), Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL) and the Industry Growth Centres are launching the Trade Barriers Register. The register has been developed by industry, for industry, to help give visibility to and resolve trade barriers affecting Australian businesses

Australian businesses can use the register to easily report regulatory and commercial barriers that impact their business success. The register will also serve as an information portal where businesses can find the latest news and case studies on trade.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP, said 'This is an exciting and innovative tool to help Australian businesses identify and overcome red tape. I'm delighted our Government is able to support it via the Industry Growth Centres.'

'The Morrison Government is committed to supporting industry to take their products to the global marketplace, boost the economy and create jobs now and into the future.'

Acting CEO of the ECA, Heath Baker, said 'As free trade agreements have lowered the tariffs Australian businesses face internationally, other forms of trade barriers have grown in relevance. But unlike tariffs, these barriers can be difficult to identify. This register is critical to help businesses identify and avoid or overcome these barriers.'

Managing Director of FIAL, Mirjana Price said 'We are working with the Industry Growth Centres and Export Council of Australia to understand exactly where Australian businesses are facing red tape and how these issues can be better communicated to government.'

Managing Director of OBE Organics, Dalene Wray, said 'The Trade Barriers Register is an important tool we now have at our fingertips to provide evidence to Government that these trade barriers are real and impact our ability to trade competitively in global markets. It's in all our interests to invest time and energy in registering our challenges using this new tool, so that we can remove obstacles and solve challenges together.'

The Trade Barriers Register is available at tradebarriersregister.com.au

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The **Export Council of Australia** is the only industry association focused on the needs of Australia's international businesses. For over 60 years the ECA has helped Australian businesses achieve international success.

Food Innovation Australia Limited is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation focused on growing the share of Australian food in the global marketplace. We work within the food and agribusiness industry to share knowledge, build capability and create connections. Established in 2013, Food Innovation Australia Limited is a part of the Federal Government's Industry Growth Centres initiative, which aims to drive innovation and growth in Australia.

OBE Organic is Australia's oldest organic beef exporter, supplying retailers, food distributors and chefs around the world certified organic grass-fed beef from Australia. www.obeorganic.com #obeorganic