



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

December 21, 2016

China-Australia Trade Agreement data reveals business already doing well out of the one-year-old deal: David Littleproud MP

WE know our food and fibre is the best in the world and now Chinese customers know it too with new data released yesterday documenting growth in export markets thanks to the China-Australia Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

“Yesterday marked the one-year anniversary of the Coalition Government’s ground-breaking trade agreement with China which has seen more Maranoa produce entering Chinese markets,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Maranoa is a hub of agricultural, horticultural and meat processing activity and I’m committed to my electorate to get the most out of this agreement, including new business opportunities and job growth in our regional towns.

“A trade agreement absence meant our producers and exporters faced significant tariffs on products and were at a competitive disadvantage to countries that already had an agreement with China.

“The China-Australia trade agreement addressed this issue and also gives us a significant advantage over larger players and our competitors.

“Further tariff cuts means Maranoa businesses exporting products like bottled wine, beef, oranges – and everything in-between – face a tariff less than half that’s paid by our major competitors like the United States, Canada and France.

“And, every year, those tariffs will be cut again for Australia until they reach zero, building on the competitive edge ChAFTA is already providing.

“Chinese consumers look for products that are clean and safe – the exact characteristics that Maranoa is renowned.

“Together with Australia’s close geographical location to Asia – and now with an international airport down the road in Toowoomba – means we’re well-placed to benefit from China’s growth and demand for top-grade Maranoa products.

“The Coalition Government is pursuing an ambitious trade agenda, and more agreements like ChAFTA, to create more opportunities for to expand and employ more locals in our regional centres.”

Australia's Merchandise Exports to China

Source: DFAT STARS Database, based on ABS Cat No 5368.0, Sept 2016 data downloaded November 2016.

Product	Jan-Sept 2015	Jan-Sept 2016	Growth
	<i>Value \$A million</i>	<i>Value \$A million</i>	<i>%</i>
Fresh or chilled boneless beef	42.3	49.9	18.0
Milk powders (<i>excluding for infants</i>)	71.1	127.1	78.8
Fresh cheese	25.7	32.9	28.4
Fresh navel oranges	32.7	50.6	54.9
Fresh table grapes	15.3	101.9	563.7
Fresh cherries	6.0	13.6	127.9
Hay and chaff for foraging	48.7	66.7	37.1
Bottled wine	217.0	308.8	42.3

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Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
