



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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### Media statement

March 27, 2017

#### **Red meat producers to benefit from new trade deal with China: Maranoa MP**

WHETHER it's processed in Warwick, lot fed in the Darling Downs, grazed on the Channel Country or sold at Australia's largest cattle-selling centre in Roma – our region's beef is the best and now export opportunities have expanded thanks to a new deal signed with China, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

"On Friday, the Coalition Government signed a Joint Statement to deliver important market access for Australia's red meat and live animal export opportunities which will help Maranoa meat exporters expand access to China, including more chilled meat," Mr Littleproud said.

"Maranoa is synonymous with high-quality beef products and that's exactly what China is looking for so this agreement is a real boost for producers as the sector continues to grow thanks to this government's commitment to growing our export opportunities. Australia's beef exports to China have grown from less than \$100 million in 2011 to exceed \$600 million in 2016.

"Industry has estimated trade facilitated by this Joint Statement could be worth more than \$400 million per year to our meat industry, which could lead to significantly improved farm-gate returns across the nation."

The *Joint Statement on Enhancing Inspection and Quarantine Cooperation* will unlock a number of trade restrictions currently in place to support Australian meat and livestock exports.

"This isn't just good news for beef producers and, thanks to the resurgence of sheep which can be attributed to successful wild dog fencing projects in Maranoa, sheep meat producers and exporters will also benefit," Mr Littleproud said.

"China is already Australia's largest sheep meat market, worth \$240 million in 2016 and is our fourth largest beef market worth \$670 million in the same year."

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