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Summary of benefits of the *Export Control Act 2020*

Improved agricultural export legislation



The *Export Control Act 2020* replaced the *Export Control Act 1982* and certain parts of the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* (AMLI Act) when it commenced on 28 March 2021. It is the Commonwealth's primary legislation governing the control of agricultural exports. The Australian Government introduced the new legislation as part of a wider initiative to strengthen Australia's agricultural exports and market access.

Benefits of the new export legislation

1. The new legislation assists farmers, other primary producers and exporters by:
 - a. reducing duplication, being more relevant and efficient and making export regulation easier to understand and comply with
 - b. supporting the export of a broader range of agricultural exports, thereby encouraging farmers and prospective exporters to engage in international trade, particularly those involved in small, niche or emerging industries
 - c. providing the flexibility to enable regulatory changes to be made much more quickly to support changes in importing country requirements
 - d. encouraging the uptake of innovation by farmers and exporters to meet regulatory requirements
 - e. including provisions for automated decision making, where approved by the Secretary, that are aimed at making regulatory processes more efficient and effective.
2. In response to stakeholder feedback provided as part of the 2015 review of the previous export legislation, the new legislation includes a broader range of penalties and sanctions. This is intended to provide a higher level of deterrence for those who would seek to disregard our regulatory requirements and damage our export markets. It also enables more targeted regulatory action in instances where non-compliance does occur.
3. The new legislation maintains Australia's commitment to meeting:
 - a. the importing country requirements of our trading partners
 - b. our international obligations, including those under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

Further information

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