Non-Tariff Measures - Table Grapes

[Image appears of a male picking grapes in the vineyard on the right and Fiona Simson talking on the left and then the image changes to show picked grapes in a crate on the left and Fiona Simson talking to the camera on the right and text appears: Fiona Simson, President, National Farmers’ Federation]

Fiona Simson: Australian farmers are known for producing some of the highest quality fruit and vegetables in the world. International markets are important to the future of the Australian horticultural industry with exports estimated to grow to over $3 billion by 2019.

[Image changes to show a close-up of Fiona talking on the left of the screen while the image on the right shows a tractor moving between the vines and spraying]

Most importing countries legitimately use Non-Tariff measures to ensure that products are safe and free from pests and diseases.

[Image changes to show Fiona talking to the camera on the right while images move through of grapes being packed into boxes on the left]

But where Non-Tariff measures unnecessarily restrict trade or impose unreasonable costs on our exporters we’re working with the Australian Government to remove or reduce their impact.

[Image changes to show Fiona talking on the left of the screen, and a worker checking through a box of grapes on the right, and then moving a pallet load of boxes of grapes into a cool-room]

Together the Government and industry are working to ensure that Non-Tariff Measures for the export of Australia’s fruit and vegetables are fair and reasonable so we can continue to grow our market opportunities around the world.

[Image changes to show a view of a vineyard on a clear day and then the camera zooms in on the vines and then the image changes to show workers checking through bunches of table grapes and then packing them into boxes]

Narrator: Australia is renowned for producing high-quality table grapes for the export market.

[Image changes to show a forklift driver removing pallets of grape cases from the back of a truck and then the image changes to show a worker moving pallets of grapes into a cool-room]

Australia is also known for its high standards in food safety and quality assurance.

[Camera zooms in on a worker checking a box of grapes and then the camera zooms out to show workers around a table taking the grapes from crates and checking them and text appears: Grapes that are free of contaminants is a Government NTM]

Ensuring grapes are free of contaminants and that all fruit has been treated appropriately are types of Government regulated Non-Tariff Measures, or NTMs, which ensure that produce is safe for consumers.

[Images move through of a tractor moving between the rows of vines, a worker putting the crates of grapes onto the trailer behind the tractor, a picker trimming the bunches of grapes, and a close-up view of the grapes on the vine]

Our farmers understand and respect the role that NTMs, which form an important part of the supply chain, play as an everyday part of doing business.

[Images flash through of the rows of vines, a worker stacking crates of grapes, and a worker inspecting boxes of grapes and text appears: Presentation of grapes in boxes is a commercial practice]

Farmers also strive to meet commercial requirements, such as ensuring that grapes are presented in a way that best shows off their natural colour.

[Image changes to show bunches of grapes on a circular table and then the image changes to show a sprayer unit moving over the vines and spraying the vines with a fine mist]

This commercial decision is not an NTM.

[Image changes to show a side view of a tractor towing a trailer full of boxes of grapes and then the image changes to show a picker snipping off the bunches of grapes from the vines]

For the most part, NTMs are a normal part of doing business for Australia's table grape producers.

[Image changes to show a bunch of grapes being held in the hand and then the image changes to show a view of the vineyard and then the image changes to show a worker trimming a bunch of grapes]

NTMs are used by countries, including Australia, for a range of legitimate reasons, including protecting biosecurity and consumer safety.

[Camera zooms in on the worker’s face and then zooms out to show him trimming the bunch of grapes and then the image changes to show Francis standing in a vineyard looking at the camera]

Where NTMs are seen to be a barrier to trade, the Government is working with industry to consider how to best address them.

[Camera zooms in on Francis standing among his vines and then the image shows Francis talking to the camera and text appears: Francis, Table Grape Farmer]

Francis: Our family started growing table grapes in the mid '60s.

[Images move through of rows of vines, and then the image changes to show Francis walking between the rows of vines towards the camera]

Seven or eight years ago, we started working to grow table grapes that can be shed packed, specifically for the China market.

[Image changes to show a rear and then side view of Francis walking between the rows and then the image changes to show Francis checking the bunches of red grapes hanging on the vines]

You have to dedicate yourself to farming and you have to have a plan in place. You need to lay the foundations to ensure the fruit's in good condition to be harvested for the destination market.

[Images flash through of Francis talking to the camera, a picker working, crates of grapes being loaded onto a trailer, a picker snipping off bunches of grapes, and Francis looking at a piece of paper and text appears: Monitoring for pests is a government NTM]

Keeping the fruit clean all through the year requires constant monitoring. Then the harvest starts, and you have to make sure that there's good farm hygiene, good worker hygiene, the workers are trained on how to keep an eye out for the pests and diseases of concern and who to report that to.

[Image changes to show a picker working in the vineyard and snipping bunches of grapes and then packing the bunches into a crate and text appears: Presentation of grapes in packaging is a commercial practice]

It's a matter of training the workers to be delicate with the fruit, and when they place it in the packaging, not to disturb the natural colour of the fruit or bloom.

[Images move through of grapes in the packing shed being checked and packed into polystyrene foam boxes]

Once the fruit's in the packing facility, the workers inspect it again for pests and disease.

[Images move through of Francis wheeling a pallet of grapes into a cool room, and then the boxes of grapes on the left side of the screen and an animation of a thermometer next to a crate of vegetables on the right and text appears: Overnight cooling or pre-treatment is a government NTM]

It's pre-cooled overnight to between 0.5 and 1.5 degrees, and that prepares the fruit for the in-transit cold treatment for fruit fly.

[Images move through of grapes being moved with a forklift, an animation of the cooled produce being loaded into a truck, Glenn talking to the camera, and then grapes being moved with a forklift and text appears: Glenn, Transport Operations Manager and Authorised Officer]

Glenn: So, when we pick the grapes up from a grower's property it's probably the last time it sees daylight ‘til it reaches the other end.

[Image changes to show stacks pallets of grape-cases in a cool room and then the camera zooms in on the boxes and then the image changes to show the grapes being inspected and text appears: Correct labelling and cold treatment are government NTMs]

Grapes have got to be brought into our cool rooms pre-cooled, make sure that the packaging is right, also make sure the product's clean to go overseas.

[Image changes to show Glenn talking to the camera and then the image changes to show a female worker inspecting the boxes of grapes and text appears: Pre-export inspection of fruit is a government NTM]

We inspect and make sure everything looks up to standard before the fruit can move to the outbound countries.

[Image changes to show Glenn talking to the camera and then images move through of grapes being inspected in the hands and then grapes hanging on the vine]

Australia is at a level where our fruit is probably in the top couple of percent in the world.

[Images move through of grapes on a sorting table, a worker checking on machinery, and Glen operating the control panel on the back of a refrigerated semi-trailer]

So, people like the taste and the quality of the fruit, so we don't want to dampen it by having a breakdown of protocols and disease in our product going overseas.

[Image changes to show Francis talking to the camera and then the image changes to show the side of a refrigerated shipping container marked with Chinese characters]

Francis: My kids get excited when they ask, "Where's that grapes going?" and I say, "It's going to China," and they can't believe it.

[Image changes to show a view of a vineyard]

[Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources logo appears on a black screen above the web address http://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/non-tariff-measures]

Narrator: To find out more about the Government's work on NTMs, visit the Department's webpage.