



**Senator the Hon Don Farrell**  
**Minister for Trade and Tourism**  
**Special Minister of State**

MS22-000072

Mr Paul Zalai  
Chief Executive Officer  
Freight and Trade Alliance & Australian Peak Shippers Association

[pzalai@ftalliance.com.au](mailto:pzalai@ftalliance.com.au)

Dear Mr Zalai

**Export Supply Chain Services Unit**

I am writing to advise you of a new Australian Government service to provide export supply chain information to small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), specifically agribusiness, food and beverage exporters and other supply chain, freight and logistics stakeholders.

This service has been established following the cessation of the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM), which provided temporary targeted emergency measures to keep global air links open during the pandemic.

While recovery is underway, I acknowledge there are complexities in the freight and supply chain which are not COVID-19 related but can be difficult to navigate for small and medium enterprises.

As such, I have asked the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) to stand up a service to provide export supply chain information and insights for our agribusiness export and freight community, particularly SMEs who may lack the resources to navigate complex international supply chain and logistics issues.

Like IFAM, the new service will focus on building system resilience in partnership with government and industry, enabling the export and freight sectors to be ready for opportunities that emerge as the global economy continues to recover.

Key to IFAM's success has been engaging with government and industry stakeholders to share business intelligence and insights on freight and supply chain issues, particularly for small to medium sized exporters.

Austrade's service will be functioning by 1 August 2022. Through this process I have asked that Austrade and the ESCS team remain close with industry and government stakeholders and to regularly report to me on export supply chain issues, including on policy or operational matters that require mine or the Government's attention.

As soon as practicable, the team will commence communication and engagement with government and industry stakeholders, but in the meantime, please share this good news with your teams and members.

Should you have any immediate questions about the new service, please contact Austrade via email at [supplychains@austrade.gov.au](mailto:supplychains@austrade.gov.au) for assistance.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to support and grow Australia's export industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Farrell', with a stylized, cursive script.

**DON FARRELL**

26 JUL 2022