



The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7420

Our Ref: MC22-000427

10 APR 2022

Mr Paul Zalai
Director, Freight & Trade Alliance
Secretariat, Australian Peak Shippers Association
Director, Global Shipper Forum
pzalai@ftalliance.com.au

Dear Mr Zalai

Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March 2022 regarding the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM).

I acknowledge that your members and those of the Australian Peak Shippers Association continue to experience challenges with the volatile and uncertain international freight environment. I have been pleased to see, however, the growth in outbound flight numbers since international borders began reopening in November 2021 and note the additional supply chain options these flights afford exporters.

IFAM is a temporary emergency COVID-19 response measure. Other COVID-19 response measures have either finished or will finish shortly. Businesses must continue to manage disruptions with a view to longer term sustainability in a post-pandemic economy. Accordingly, it remains the intention of Government to cease the IFAM program on 30 June 2022 with an operational tail until 31 July 2022. We will continue to closely monitor the situation, including whether there is a need to extend IFAM should circumstances change.

The Government is aware that New Zealand has extended its Maintaining International Air Connectivity (MIAC) Scheme until 31 March 2023. As you have acknowledged, the air cargo markets of Australia and New Zealand are distinct. It is also important to note that New Zealand has adopted different COVID-19 management strategies compared with Australia including a five-phase reopening strategy that fully opens to vaccinated citizens and all visa holders in October 2022, and that the MIAC program is different in its scope and structure.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Dan Tehan.

DAN TEHAN