

## Media Release

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### New Australia-UAE Free Trade Agreement Unlocks Tariff-Free Access for Australian Agriculture

The Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) has welcomed the newly announced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Australia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a pivotal development for the country's agricultural sector. Under the new agreement, nearly all Australian agricultural products entering the UAE will become tariff-free, delivering an estimated \$50 million in savings annually for Australian producers.

The UAE has become an increasingly important market for Australia, offering vast opportunities for agricultural exports and contributing to the diversification of trade beyond traditional partners. The tariff-free access will provide Australian fresh produce growers, along with other agricultural sectors, a competitive edge in one of the Middle East's most dynamic economies.

"The UAE is an emerging market for a range of horticulture exports, and industry looks forward to continuing to expand our trade under the new agreement," said AFPA CEO Claire McClelland. "By removing trade barriers, this agreement helps ensure the long-term viability of our sector while creating jobs and stimulating the local economy."

Expanding trade is vital for the fresh produce industry, as it supports the industry's growth and creates new employment opportunities. By increasing export options, Australia is building a more resilient and robust agricultural sector, one that is less vulnerable to market fluctuations and external pressures. Additionally, broadening trade access plays a critical role in supporting domestic price stability and ensuring supply resilience.

The new Australia-UAE FTA follows other key trade successes, including improved market access for Australian table grapes to Japan and new market access for Australian plums to Vietnam. These developments highlight the importance of expanding global trade relationships, which not only open new markets but also reinforce the strength of Australia's fresh produce sector.

"The continued success of Australia's horticulture exports is underpinned by creating and capitalising on export opportunities like these," said Ms. McClelland. "Growing our trade partnerships ensures that our industry can thrive in the global market, and further strengthens Australia's agricultural standing."

The AFPA is calling on the Australian Government to maintain its momentum in improving trade outcomes, not only through Free Trade Agreements but also through new and improved technical market access for fresh produce to key international partners. This will allow Australian producers to better leverage existing agreements and continue to grow, supporting the domestic industry and supply of fresh produce.

"The UAE FTA is a significant step forward, but it's essential that we keep up the pace. We need to continue securing new opportunities through both comprehensive trade agreements and technical access protocols," said Ms. McClelland.

The AFPA looks forward to working with the government to ensure that more trade opportunities are fully realised, benefiting not only the horticulture industry but also the wider Australian economy.

**Media Contact:** Claire McClelland - CEO, AFPA: 0400 158 193

**About the AFPA** - The Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) is made up of Australia's key fresh produce growers and suppliers. The AFPA represents half the industry turnover of the Australian fresh produce sector - \$4.5 billion of the \$9.1 billion total; 1,000 plus growers through commercial arrangements and more than 15,000 direct employees through peak harvest, and up to 25,000 in the grower network.