

2 December 2024

FTA Coordination Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
gccfta@dfat.gov.au
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: Australia-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA negotiations

Organic Operators Australia welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in support of the Australia-GCC FTA. OOA fully supports FTA with the GCC opening opportunities for Australia to export Certified Organic goods to UAE and the wider GCC.

The Australian Organic industry has more than half the world's certified organic land at 55million hectares. This makes Australia a leading producer of certified organic meat and grain products, and a leading organic dairy producer.

The Australian organic market currently is \$2.1billion with 45% from exports.

The UAE is a priority market for the organic industry on the basis of discerning value-led consumer market. Foods that are free from genetic engineering and synthetic chemical contamination are increasingly sought after in mature consumer markets. As a leader in certified organic foods, Australia has a clear opportunity to meet this need.

Organic Operators Australia is playing a key facilitation role to support trade with the UAE and the wider GCC countries, though market analysis and distribution of market supply opportunities with key buyers / importers.

Critical to market access is bilateral agreement on organic certification standards equivalence, whereby GCC markets would accept products certified organic under Australia's export standard to be equivalent with product labelling in GCC as certified organic.

Organic Operators Australia is keen to support with any further information as required through the consultation process with the UAE.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Hislop Speers
Chair, Organic Industries of Australia Ltd