



1 September 2020

Submission
Country of Origin Labelling for Food
originlabelling@industry.gov.au

Dear Sir Madam,

Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL)

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Evaluation of Country of Origin Labelling for Food. The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is an organisation of employers in the hotel and hospitality industry registered under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*. Its diverse membership includes pub-style hotels plus three, four and five-star international accommodation hotels located in each state and territory. Size and scope includes:

- 5,100 members (65% family owned)
- Directly employ more than 250,000 people
- 4.1 million meals served per week nationwide

The AHA supports the status quo as set out in the consultation paper, as set out below:

- AHA supports the maintenance of the exemption of food sold for immediate consumption, such as hotels, restaurants, cafes, and other food service businesses.
- The AHA notes this exemption was maintained on the basis that in a food service setting, consumers have the opportunity to enquire directly with wait-staff about the origins of their food.
- Further, the cost of implementing Country of Origin labelling requirements would be disproportionately higher for food service businesses (especially those that are family owned), compared to the cost for food and beverage producers.

Whilst the AHA support measures that provide the community with opportunities to make choices about the origins of seafood, this cannot be at the expense of the foodservice businesses who already struggle with the cost of compliance and red tape measures at federal, state and local government levels of government.

STEPHEN FERGUSON
AHA NATIONAL CEO