

MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2017

April 1st, no joke for Australian wine exports to Japan

April 1st 2017 has seen the fourth round of tariff cuts take effect under the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA).

The JAEPA entered into force in January 2015 and will see the Elimination of the 15 percent tariff on bottled wine by 2021 through incremental reductions over time. The latest reduction for wine tariffs sees the rates drop to 7.5 percent or ¥125/litre (whichever is the less, subject to the minimum customs duty of 33.5 yen/l) for bottled wine and 9.5 percent or ¥125/litre (whichever is the less, subject to the minimum customs duty of 42.64 yen/l). Under the agreement, these tariffs will continue to be reduced each year until eliminated.

The impact of this agreement is already being felt, as highlighted by Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Honourable Steven Ciobo in a recent [media release](#). Minister Ciobo noted that bottled wine exports had increased by 13 percent to reach \$35.6 million over 2014 to 2016.

'Free Trade Agreements (FTA's) are pivotal to improving Australian business' access to international markets and the JAEPA is no exception', said Tony Battaglione, Chief Executive of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA).

'WFA will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to ensure the Australian Wine industry benefits from Australia's FTA's with partnering countries.

'The JAEPA provides Australian producers a competitive advantage which will only improve as the tariffs continue to reduce.'

MEDIA NOTE: Available for interview - WFA Chief Executive Tony Battaglione – 0413 014 807

MEDIA CONTACT: Alison Laslett – 0424 135 381



Deputy Prime Minister, National Party Leader and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Media Release:

<http://minister.agriculture.gov.au/joyce/Pages/Media-Releases/jaepa-continues-to-produce-sweet-deals.aspx>

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, The Hon Steven Ciobo MP Media Release:

http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2017/sc_mr_170403.aspx

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