



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT SELLS OUT AUSTRALIAN FARMERS IN EU TRADE DEAL

Along with meat and livestock industry groups, and livestock farmers in his electorate, Federal Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has expressed his disappointment in the Federal Government's flawed free trade deal with the European Union. Rushed through during a time of global crisis, Mr Venning believes this weak agreement falls well short of what industry expected and leaves Australia at a significant disadvantage.

Instead of fighting for fair access to European markets, Venning believes the Government has locked our red meat sector into unfair, low quotas that will hurt regional communities for years to come. Noting that this deal is a missed opportunity, which heavily favours European producers while leaving Australian agriculture behind.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning MP, Member for Grey:

"This new trade deal with Europe proves the industry wasn't listened to. As others have said, it feels like our side didn't know what they were doing, and we got played."

"What we have here cannot be characterised as a free trade deal, it is far from free. The EU is still protecting its interests, while Australian farmers are left to pick up the tab."

"Consider the beef sector: the agreement grants 30,600 tonnes (cwt) of access over the next decade. Yet, 50,000 tonnes (cwt) was the absolute minimum needed to stay competitive with the EU's existing offers to other countries. This is a bad deal."

"This deal is a disaster for our farmers. It does absolutely nothing to fix the unfair trade balance between Australia and Europe. The PM was just after a headline, so he signed."

"We had a rare chance to make trade fairer, but we blew it. Our Trade Minister gave up too easily and betrayed our farmers. It would have been better to walk away with no deal at all. It seems rushed and forced through in a time of global crisis."

"This isn't just about winning political points. It's about making sure businesses in the regions, farmers, and the livestock industry as a whole can survive and grow. We need to start putting Australia's interests ahead of everything else."

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