



SENATOR THE HON. SIMON BIRMINGHAM

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Senator for South Australia

SENATOR THE HON. JONATHON DUNIAM

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries
Senator for Tasmania

To Australia's seafood industry,

As the Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced today, the National Security Committee of Cabinet has agreed to extend the entry restrictions for a further week to 29 February 2020 to protect Australians from the risk of coronavirus.

The health and safety of Australians is our priority, but we understand the impact on the seafood industry of this decision to protect Australians.

Demand for Australian seafood, and several of our exports, has declined as a result of the impact of the coronavirus. This is particularly the case for those businesses that are significantly exposed to the China market.

Our Government is continuing to work closely with industry and State Governments to support those in the fishing industry impacted by this downturn in demand and access. A number of supports are in place to assist the industry including:

A direct point of contact has been appointed within Austrade to provide exporting businesses or industry with assistance and advice on market access opportunities and diversification. The contact point is Ms Amanda Hodges +61 7 3364 7706, Amanda.hodges@austrade.gov.au.

Austrade's Export Market Development Grants scheme is available to provide financial assistance for aspiring and current exporters seeking to develop and promote export markets. The contact for the EMDG Scheme: 13 28 78, EMDG.help@austrade.gov.au.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) is also available. This service provides support to businesses, by gaining an understanding of their current position and assisting in implementing plans to assist them in meeting the challenges faced by this event. The contact details for State, Territory and Regional assistance is available at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service>.

We will continue to listen to you and to work with you on additional ways that we can support you, today and into the future.

Please do not hesitate to continue to engage with our offices as we work together through this challenging time for the industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Birmingham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Birmingham

23/2/2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathon Duniam', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jonathon Duniam

23/2/2020