



13 September 2013

## Five Nations Beef Alliance

### Core Principles for a Trade Liberalising Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

We, the cattlemen of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, working in a co-ordinated partnership known as the Five Nations Beef Alliance (FNBA)<sup>1</sup>, offer our unified support for the following core principles for a high quality, comprehensive Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement.

These principles build on those agreed by the FNBA in November 2012, and reference the “*Statement of Core Principles for a Successful TPP Agreement*” as endorsed by various agricultural organisations in 2013.

The FNBA comprises the Cattle Council of Australia, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Confederacion Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. Together we represent producers from countries that account for one-third of global beef production and approximately half of global beef exports.

Core TPP principles:

1. A TPP agreement must be comprehensive – and cover all elements including the trade in goods and services, investment, e-commerce, competition policy and intellectual property.
2. There must be no product or sector exclusions, especially in agriculture. Exclusions would limit opportunities in each of the member countries to reach new markets, grow businesses and generate economic growth and jobs.
3. All tariffs and other market access barriers must be eliminated by the end of the negotiated transition period. All transition periods must have commercially meaningful timeframes, which should be short and not back-loaded. Allowing any access restrictions to be maintained by one TPP member would lead to demands for similar treatment by others – resulting in a second class agreement, at best.
4. In eliminating tariffs, there must not be recourse to trade-distorting restrictions (quotas) or safeguards.
5. For ease of use and flexibility for all current and future TPP members, the formulation of a plurilateral tariff elimination schedule is essential.
6. Risk based scientific decision making, regulatory convergence and equivalence are critically important. International science-based standards must be incorporated in the text (for example conformity with OIE and Codex guidelines). Non-science based Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures must not impede trade.
7. A “Rapid Response Mechanism” is essential to address frustrations when trade is interrupted due to the application of unscientific SPS measures or technical barriers. Additionally, clear, timely and binding disciplines and consultative mechanisms must be established to deal with on-going non-tariff trade barriers and new issues should they arise.
8. Obligations that go beyond those in existing World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements must be subject to TPP enforcement provisions. Since members would not have recourse to WTO dispute settlement to enforce enhanced TPP disciplines, failure to include an enforcement mechanism could render new disciplines valueless.
9. Liberal rules of origin must facilitate trade in all red meat products from live animals through to prepared red meat.
10. The agreement must be a single undertaking. All elements of the negotiation are part of an indivisible package and cannot be agreed upon separately. Nothing should be finalized until everything is finalized.

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<sup>1</sup> The fifth FNBA member from Mexico has yet to endorse this statement