



Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

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18 JAN 2018

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
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Dear Prime Minister

malcolm

I am writing in relation to the Indian Government's recent decision to apply a 30 per cent tariff to imports of chickpeas and lentils.

The value of chickpea exports from Queensland has increased to \$1.4 billion over the 12 months prior to November 2017 and India is our most important export market. As a consequence, and as you are no doubt aware, the Indian action is of significant concern to the Queensland Government and to our job supporting agriculture industry.

The Queensland Government raised the matter directly with the Indian High Commissioner to Australia during an official lunch hosted in his honour on 4 October 2017, and again during a meeting with the Australian High Commissioner to India during her visit to Brisbane on 12 October 2017. The Queensland Government has also had ongoing contact on this matter through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Queensland State Office.

I understand that the Federal Government has already taken up this issue with the Indian Government and that the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; the Honourable Steven Ciobo MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment; and the Honourable David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources have already or are planning to raise it in discussions with Indian counterparts. Separately, I am also aware that the Australian High Commissioner to India has been making representations to the Indian Government.

I welcome the efforts of the Federal Government, including the work of the Australian High Commissioner. Please be assured that the Queensland Government and our representatives in India are continuing to advocate for the removal of the 30 per cent tariff on chickpeas and lentils and stand ready to provide any support we can.

I have asked representatives from Trade & Investment Queensland, and my Office, to remain in contact with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this issue. We would appreciate being kept informed on your representations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anastacia'.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**