

31 January 2019

Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham
Minister for Trade Tourism & Investment
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By email: senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au

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Dear Minister

Funding of the EMDG (export rebate) incentive scheme

We seek your support to redress the underfunding of the Export Market Development Grant Scheme to ensure it continues to be effective in instilling export confidence in small and medium sized businesses.

The number of businesses seeking export opportunities continues to increase – up about 5% per annum – and Austrade tell us that the trend continues this year.

Unfortunately the Federal Budget last year did not provide any increase in funding – so there is a growing shortfall between approved audited grants and actual payments to exporters.

On behalf of businesses in your electorate (and employees of businesses around Australia) I ask you to raise this issue with your colleagues.

Last year the government said that it *“is committed to progressively restoring EMDG funding, in the context of the current Budget environment”*, and we understand that the budget is expected to return to surplus.

Attached is our submission to the Pre Budget process.

You recently said *“we know that Australian businesses that export, hire more staff, pay higher wages, and have higher productivity than non-exporting firms”*.

An increase of about \$37 million, a modest sum in Budget terms, would give the confidence and certainty to exporters that they will receive the rebate that the scheme intends; and Australia will benefit through their efforts.

Yours sincerely



Philip Litton
Director
Export Solutions Pty Ltd