



## Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Senator for South Australia

Our Ref MC19-000054

Mr Philip Litton  
Director  
Export Solutions Pty Ltd  
PO Box 1002  
OSBORNE PARK WA 6916

Dear Mr Litton

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and me regarding the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme. I am always pleased to hear about Australian businesses taking their products to the world.

The EMDG scheme has assisted over 50,000 Australian small and medium sized exporters to access international markets for more than 40 years. The popularity of the scheme is an encouraging sign of the willingness of Australian businesses to expand into new markets and leverage free trade agreement opportunities.

The number of businesses that may lodge an EMDG claim each year is not limited and the scheme has been oversubscribed in recent years due to its popularity. Unfortunately, the previous Labor Government significantly cut funding for the EMDG scheme.

The Coalition Government has already provided a funding boost to the scheme of more than \$60 million over five years, taking total funding to \$137.9 million in the 16–17 grant year. We remain committed to supporting Australian exporters through improved market access under our expanding network of trade agreements, lower taxes for small and medium businesses and support via the EMDG scheme.

Yours sincerely

**Simon Birmingham**

14 MAR 2019