



Australian Government

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

MC26-000221

13 August 2026

Mr Stuart Mitchell
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Dear Mr Mitchell

Thank you for your correspondence to the Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State, regarding the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) Program. The Minister has asked Austrade to reply on his behalf.

We thank you for your participation in the Independent Review and for your feedback. As you would be aware the EMDG Independent Review report was tabled in Parliament on 2 July 2026. The Australian Government is now considering its findings and will provide a formal response in due course.

We will ensure all stakeholders including yourself are kept informed of next steps following the Government's response. We will of course engage with you further should additional consultation be required to inform the implementation of the next grant round.

Regarding the current acquittal process of the 2025-26 milestone reports, we thank you for submitting your clients' reports by the due date.

We are working through the assessments as quickly as possible. Payments are subject to satisfactory assessments of 2025-26 milestone reports, and we are pleased to confirm that initial payments for the 2026-27 financial year have commenced and will be made progressively as further milestone reports are assessed for 2025-26. We are finding that some milestone reports do not contain all relevant information and our assessors are contacting grantees and grant agents to clarify. Timely responses to such requests will assist with processing of payments and we thank you for your ongoing support in this process.

Thank you again for raising these matters with the Minister.

Yours sincerely

Ms Nerma Gunic
Strategic Adviser, EMDG
Australian Trade and Investment Commission

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