Australian cherry growers have joined a chorus of complaints over the federal government's decision to pursue a free trade agreement with Chile. The growers claim that Chile, as their biggest competitor, will squeeze them further out of the international market.

The Australian Cherry Growers Association's Ian Hay told the ABC it was an insensitive decision by Trade Minister Warren Truss, which will seriously harm the horticulture sector.

"Chile is our biggest competitor within our own time zone," he said. "Their fruit ripens when ours does, it has huge American dollars behind it. "We can't work out the driver behind it."

[Source: foodweek.com.au](http://www.foodweek.com.au/main-features-page.aspx?articleType=ArticleView&articleId=613)