

## Senate Estimates

### Trade & Tourism: Ministerial Statement

Thank you Chair.

I would like to start by acknowledging the recent passing of one of Australia's most distinguished diplomats, **Richard Woolcott AC**. Richard's contribution to advancing Australia's interests overseas and strengthening ties with our neighbours in the Indo-Pacific will long be remembered.

The Albanese Government is strengthening Australia's economic recovery by **diversifying trade** and investment ties and backing the recovery of Australia's visitor economy.

In the past eight months we have successfully delivered on key election commitments on trade or made significant strides towards delivery.

Our **record of achievements** in such a short time include:

- Leading negotiations to secure an unprecedented package of trade outcomes at the **12th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference** in June 2022
- Finalising all **domestic processes** to implement the trade deals with the United Kingdom and India
  - the **Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** came into force on 29 December 2022
  - as a result, Australian exporters benefited from two tariff cuts in quick succession – on entry into force and on 1 January 2023.
  - the **United Kingdom** is finalising its domestic processes and we expect the free trade agreement will enter into force in the next few months
- In September 2022 Australia joined other partners to launch the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** negotiations – Australia hosted the first negotiating round in Brisbane in December.

- Trade negotiations with the **European Union** are back on track after stalling under the Morrison Government
- Last year I completed **ministerial visits to key overseas markets** – Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, United States, New Zealand, and Europe.
- The Government has delivered its election commitment to review the **Export Market Development Grants** program.

We welcome the continued **recovery of the visitor economy** and we are working closely with Australia's tourism and travel sector to ensure that recovery continues, setting us up for future growth.

- We're rolling out our **\$48 million Supporting Australian Tourism and Travel** budget measure, which includes measures to attract and upskill workers, bring back international visitors, enhance the Quality Tourism Framework to support small and medium businesses, and more.
- As part of that package, we're providing a total of **\$10 million in grants to 111 projects at caravan parks across Australia**.
- We're supporting them to deliver **new and upgraded facilities** and continue to provide important accommodation options – particularly in regional Australia – for families and budget-conscious travellers.
- And, with **Tourism Australia**, we've launched the '**Come and Say G'day**' campaign, which has attracted more than 190 million views across the short movie, trailer and television ads.

By any measure, not a bad score card.

**Looking ahead**, our goal is to build on this impressive start by:

- Taking further steps to **stabilise relations with China** – our largest trading partner – and removing trade impediments.
- Concluding an ambitious and comprehensive **trade deal with the EU** by mid-year.
- Expanding and deepening our trade deal with India by negotiating a **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** and

supporting the Prime Minister by leading a business delegation to India in March.

- Concluding negotiations on the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**.
- Supporting the **accession of the UK to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**.
- Strengthening ties with our **South-East Asian neighbours** including by visiting Vietnam and the Philippines and working with Minister Wong to implement the Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040.
- Building international partnerships on **green trade and investment** to help Australia's become a renewable energy superpower.
- Continuing to **simplify our cross-border trade system** through regulatory and digital reforms.
- Defending and reforming the **World Trade Organization**.
- **Growing Australian export industries** by providing practical help to companies to access international markets and **financing Australian exports and interests**, including overseas infrastructure development.
- **Continuing** our support for the ongoing recovery of Australia's visitor economy, including by attracting **international students** back to our shores.

Yes, it's an ambitious agenda, but the Albanese Government is committed to supporting Australian businesses to pursue opportunities in new markets, attract investment to support the transition to a decarbonised economy and the continued recovery of our critical tourism and travel industries.

**Thank you.**