



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th July 2021

New Content,

RE: THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE DEAL.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding the new free trade agreement with Australia. I have read your comments with interest.

I believe the trade deal reached with Australia is an enormous opportunity for the UK. We are Australia's second largest trading partner outside the Asia-Pacific and trade between our two countries was worth £18.8 billion in 2019. It also paves the way for UK membership of the Comprehensive & Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) - a group of eleven Pacific markets worth £9 trillion.

The deal will eliminate tariffs on all UK goods and support jobs across the country. People under the age of thirty-five will be able to travel and work in Australia more freely, British tech companies will benefit from enhanced access to the Australian market and there will be greater opportunities for UK professionals and service providers.

The trade agreement also contains a dedicated chapter on animal welfare, which I understand is the first for an Australian trade deal. Indeed, imports to the UK will have to meet the same stringent standards as they did before. This means that imports of hormone-treated beef will continue to be banned in the UK. British farmers will be further protected by a cap on tariff-free imports for fifteen years. I am also assured that the Trade & Agriculture Commission will provide independent scrutiny of animal welfare in the deal ahead of its ratification.

Australia has one of the highest animal welfare standards in the world, similar to our own, and scoring five out of five by the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE). The practices of castration of chickens and production of foie gras, for example, are banned in Australia on welfare grounds, but continue to be permitted in the EU. Imports will still have to meet the same UK food safety and biosecurity standards as they did before.

Every part of the UK is set to benefit from the agreement. Scotland exported £126 million worth of beverages to Australia in 2020 and the deal will remove tariffs of up to 5 percent on Scotch Whisky. Machinery and manufacturing goods account for 90 percent of Northern Irish exports to Australia and the deal will remove tariffs and simplify customs procedures. The more than 450 businesses in Wales that exported to Australia last year will also benefit from the deal.



Moreover, I can assure you that Ministers are determined, as I am, to ensure that a trade deal will not threaten our ability to meet our environmental commitments. That is why I am glad that the agreement will include a dedicated chapter on trade and the environment. This will contain provisions encouraging trade and investment in environmental goods and services which support shared environmental objectives. For the first time, Australia has also agreed to specific mention of the Paris Agreement in a free trade deal - a deal which also affirms the commitments of each country to tackle climate change and acknowledges the role of global trade in these efforts.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes
Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE