



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

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Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
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Dear Gerry,

Following the federal election in Australia on 21 May, we understand that the new Australian government under Anthony Albanese will take a more ambitious approach to environment and climate related issues, including in relation to trade. Climate change was a key issue in the election and Mr Albanese campaigned to deliver a big shift in Australia's climate policy, including adopting more ambitious emissions reduction targets.

The change in government therefore offers an opportunity for both Parties to review the environment chapter in the trade agreement signed with Australia. We would be interested to know what consideration the Government has already given to the possibility of strengthening the environment chapter—either before or after ratification—and whether there have been any discussions with the new government along these lines. Should changes be proposed after the agreement has been ratified, would such amendments be subject to parliamentary scrutiny under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG)?

If possible, we would welcome a response to this letter before the CRaG process for the Australia agreement is triggered.

I am copying this letter to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chair of the International Trade Committee in the Commons.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Hayter

Chair, House of Lords International Agreements Committee