



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
Minister for Investment**

Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London
SW1A 2DY

Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town
Chair of International Agreements Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E grimstone.correspondence@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk/dit

14 June 2022

Dear Dianne,

I am writing in response to your letter of 9 June, where you sought clarity on the next steps for the ratification of the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) following the election of the new Australian Government, with a specific focus on the Environment chapter.

The Secretary of State has spoken to the new Australian Trade Minister, Senator Farrell, and during that introductory conversation our shared ambitions in relation to the environment and climate change were discussed. The Environment chapter secured in the UK-Australia FTA commits both parties to strengthen cooperation in a range of issues such as sustainable forest management, the circular economy and marine litter in order to tackle shared environmental challenges. It also reaffirms our commitments under Multilateral Environment Agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Additionally, we committed in the FTA to combat illegal logging and related trade, an issue of critical importance to the preservation of our natural environment and biodiversity. The agreement also ensures that neither Australia nor the UK can deviate from our environmental laws in order to promote trade and investment and both parties have recourse to dispute settlement mechanisms if needed.

There are ample more opportunities for collaboration in this space. The agreement also establishes a Joint Committee which is responsible for supervising the implementation and operation of the Agreement. It allows the Joint Committee to modify the FTA in certain instances, and for the United Kingdom, any significant changes would likely be subject to ratification and thus be laid before Parliament for scrutiny under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG) procedure.

We are proud of the agreement which will facilitate trade for low carbon technologies among other areas, as well as affirm commitments to tackling climate change, and preserving our right to regulate to meet climate change objectives. We have worked hard, and the result is a chapter that goes beyond all other FTAs that Australia has agreed.

I hope that you have found this letter useful and either my officials or I would be very happy to provide further clarity on any of these issues.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grimstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
Minister for Investment
Department for International Trade
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy