



Department for International Trade

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ITC – Letter on Australia FTA Impact Assessment

Dear Angus,

Thank you for your letter regarding the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement negotiations and its forthcoming economic impact assessment. As you know, both negotiating teams are continuing with the work of preparing the treaty for signature. In parallel, officials from across Whitehall are preparing an impact assessment.

To address the points you raised on the impact assessment methodology, the Government is committed to a transparent approach to its new free trade agreements and will publish an independently scrutinised impact assessment when treaty text is laid in parliament. As part of the process towards producing all our analysis, my department constantly reviews and improves our methodologies to ensure they are as accurate as possible and reflect global best practice. In the case of the analysis included in impact assessments this is also subject to external scrutiny.

The aim of our impact assessments is to provide the best available assessment of the impact of each of our deals. I can reassure the committee that the impact assessments for Australia and New Zealand will be assessed on the same methodological basis, allowing for direct comparison between the two agreements.

If there are any grounds for change to the UK's domestic legislation, these would be dealt with through an introduction of a Bill of Parliament and scrutinised in the usual manner across both Houses. A need for primary legislation has been identified to implement the changes that have already been agreed in the negotiation. The Explanatory Memorandum (EM) that will accompany the full treaty will set out clearly the primary and secondary legislation requirements.

No decisions have yet been taken on the scope and timing of any legislation.

Finally, I reiterate my predecessor's commitment to share with you an embargoed copy of the full treaty text, the EM, and the impact assessment.
Thank you for taking to time to write to me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne-Marie Trevelyan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade