

**COPY**



THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

22 JAN 2014

Dear Prime Minister

The December 2013 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Ministerial Meeting in Singapore delivered significant progress in the negotiations, and the 12 parties are now working to finalise the TPP in the first half of 2014. An officials' only meeting has been foreshadowed for 17-21 February in Singapore followed directly by a Ministerial meeting on 22-25 February. I am writing to seek your approval for a delegation of DFAT trade officials and officials from relevant agencies in Canberra to travel to Singapore for the officials' meeting and to support me at the Ministerial meeting. (Request for my travel to the meeting will follow shortly as required.)

We have been informed that the agenda for the February meetings will track the same agenda as the December Singapore Ministerial. That is, all issues on which Ministers agreed a pathway forward will be transposed into legal text by officials. These will return to Ministers for further discussion. Additional issues which were not resolved in December but which require a political decision will again be pursued. Both legs of the visit therefore will require the assistance of the team of officials. Australia has significant offensive and defensive issues to manage covering many aspects of this wide-ranging treaty.

The expert delegation required to support this work will be similar to that which travelled to Singapore in December. This will include 17 DFAT negotiators to work on market access negotiations, and chapters which have not yet been resolved in which Australia retains critical interests, and 10 agency expert representatives with key portfolio interests. The delegation would likely comprise the following DFAT officials:

Chris De Cure – FAS, Chief Negotiator  
Elizabeth Ward – AS, Deputy Chief Negotiator  
Frances Lisson – AS, Chief Negotiator, Japan-Australia FTA  
s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Legal Counsel  
s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Lead  
s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Goods Lead  
s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Goods negotiator  
s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Goods negotiator  
s.22(1)(a)(ii) – ASO6, Rules of Origin and Customs Lead

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- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Financial Services and Medicines Transparency Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Investment Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Services Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Electronic Commerce/Telecommunications Lead, and services negotiator
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Environment Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Competition Policy Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Intellectual Property Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – ASO4, Australian secretariat liaison and coordinator

Agency representatives:

- Department of Finance – government procurement expert
- Attorney General's Department – 1 x copyright expert, 1 x investment expert
- Department of Industry – 2 x patent experts; 2 x experts on industrial tariffs/rules of origin
- Department of Agriculture – expert on market access and sanitary/phytosanitary disciplines
- Department of Health – expert on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Department of Environment – expert on environment disciplines

You will note that I have sought approval for a team of officials from DFAT and agencies to support the TPP market access negotiations. This part of the trade deal has a vast number of unresolved but critical decisions which go to the heart of the commercial value of the final package:

- Goods market access requires the negotiation of around 10,000 tariff lines for each of the eleven parties. On goods, the DFAT team will comprise Ward, s.22(1)(a)(ii) plus representatives from Departments of Agriculture and Industry. The team also includes Australia's Chief Negotiator in the Japan-Australia FTA negotiations to ensure that we maximise outcomes in both deals and do not inadvertently undermine each other's efforts.
- Negotiations on services/investment market access aim to limit currently over 500 pages of country specific carve-outs. The team comprises s.22(1)(a)(ii) and a representative from the Attorney General's Department.

Likewise, several officials from DFAT and other agencies are required to support intellectual property negotiations – a function of the complexity, breadth and sensitivity of the intellectual property agenda for Australia. The Intellectual Property team includes s.22(1)(a)(ii) and representatives from Departments of Health, Attorney General, and Industry (IP Australia).

Based on the cost of travel to Singapore for the December Ministerial meeting and consistent with DFAT's international travel guidelines, the average estimated costs for the upcoming meeting are as follows:

- Business Class Airfare. s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person
- Accommodation + taxes (10 nights) s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person per day
- Travel Allowance (10 days) s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person per day

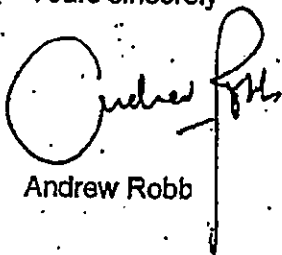
Australia fields one of the more modest delegations at the TPP which is a credit to our officials, given the size and complexity of this undertaking. As a point of comparison, I have attached below a list providing the size of each delegation at the December

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Singapore Ministerial.

From my first hand experience with the TPP negotiations I am confident the delegation is being kept to an efficient minimum. A copy of this letter will be circulated to offices of relevant portfolio Ministers.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Robb

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**Delegation numbers at TPP Ministerial meeting, Singapore, November 2013**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Registered Delegates</b>
Australia	22
Brunei	s.33(b)
Canada	
Chile	
Japan	
Malaysia	
Mexico	
New Zealand	
Peru	
Singapore	
United States	
Vietnam	

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by the TMO.

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THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

28 APR 2014

The Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to seek your approval for a delegation of DFAT trade officials and officials from relevant agencies in Canberra to travel to Vietnam for a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) officials-level meeting (12 – 18 May), and for a smaller number of key negotiators to travel to Singapore to support me at a TPP Ministerial meeting (19 May). Request for my travel to the Singapore meeting will follow shortly as required.

Following the officials and ministerial-level TPP meetings held in Singapore in February 2014, TPP parties are working to finalise the negotiations this year. The meetings scheduled for Vietnam and Singapore in May will provide an important opportunity for TPP parties to meet to resolve outstanding issues in the negotiations.

Australia has significant offensive and defensive issues to manage covering many aspects of this wide-ranging treaty. Negotiators at the officials-level meeting in Vietnam will continue to engage on outstanding chapter text across a wide range of issues and press for comprehensive market access outcomes for Australia. TPP Ministers will then meet in Singapore on 19 May (scheduled directly after the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in Qingdao, China) to take stock of progress, pursue issues which require a political decision and issue further instructions for negotiators.

The delegation of experts required for the meetings in Vietnam will be similar to that which travelled to Singapore in February. This will include up to 19 DFAT negotiators to work on market access negotiations and chapters which have not yet been resolved in which Australia retains critical interests, and up to 11 agency expert representatives with key portfolio interests. The program for the meetings in Vietnam is still under discussion, but once finalised, a copy will be sent to your office.

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The delegation would likely comprise the following DFAT officials:

- Chris De Cure – FAS, Chief Negotiator
- Elizabeth Ward – AS, Deputy Chief Negotiator
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Legal Counsel and Legal and Institutional Issues Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Goods Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Goods Negotiator
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Goods Negotiator
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – APS6, Rules of Origin and Customs Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Financial Services and Healthcare Transparency Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Investment Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Expert on Investor-State Dispute Settlement
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Services Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – APS4, Services Advisor
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Environment Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Competition Policy Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Intellectual Property Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – Director, Government Procurement Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – EL1, Labour Lead
- s.22(1)(a)(ii) – APS4, Australian Secretariat Liaison and Coordinator

I propose that five DFAT officials would then accompany me to Singapore for the TPP Ministerial Meeting, comprising: the Chief Negotiator, Deputy Chief Negotiator, Legal Counsel, Intellectual Property Lead and Investment Lead.

Representatives from the following agencies would also attend the officials-level meeting in Vietnam:

- Department of Finance – 1 x government procurement expert
- Attorney-General's Department – 1 x expert on copyright and enforcement
- Department of Industry – 2 x experts on industrial tariffs/rules of origin
- IP Australia – 2 x industrial property experts
- Department of Agriculture – 1 x expert on market access and sanitary and phytosanitary disciplines
- Department of Health – 2 x experts on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- Department of Environment – 1 x expert on environment disciplines
- Australian Customs – 1 x expert on customs verification

You will note that I have sought approval for a team of officials from DFAT and agencies to support the TPP market access negotiations. A large number of unresolved, critical elements on market access go to the heart of the commercial value of the final package:

- goods market access requires the negotiation of around 10,000 tariff lines for each of the eleven parties. On goods, the DFAT team will comprise Ward, s.22(1)(a)(ii) plus representatives from Departments of Agriculture and Industry
- negotiations on services/investment market access aim to limit currently over 500 pages of country specific carve-outs. The team comprises s.22(1)(a)(ii) and s.22(1)(a)(ii)

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Likewise, several officials from DFAT and other agencies are required to support intellectual property negotiations – a function of the complexity, breadth and sensitivity of the intellectual property agenda for Australia. The Intellectual Property team includes s.22(1)(a)(ii) and representatives from the Department of Health, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Industry and IP Australia.

Consistent with DFAT's international travel guidelines, the average estimated costs for the upcoming meeting in Vietnam are as follows:

- Business class airfare: s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person
- Accommodation + taxes (5 nights) s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person per day
- Travel allowance (5 days) s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person per day

This would imply a total cost for the official delegation to Vietnam of around s.22(1)(a)(ii). I am sensitive to budgetary constraints and will ensure that costs for this trip are kept to a minimum. Depending on the final program for the meetings in Vietnam, it may be that negotiators for certain groups are not required for the entire period and can return to Canberra early.

Additional estimated costs for those attending the Ministerial meeting in Singapore are as follows:

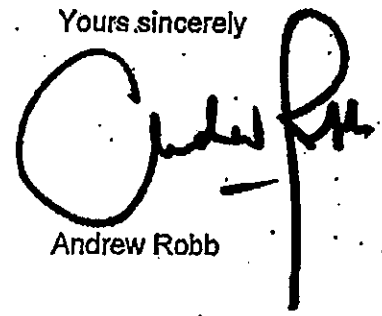
- Accommodation + taxes (4 nights) s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person per day
- Travel allowance (4 days) s.22(1)(a)(ii) per person per day

This would imply a total cost for DFAT officers attending the Singapore Ministerial of around s.22(1)(a)(ii).

Australia fields one of the more modest delegations at the TPP which is a credit to our officials, given the size and complexity of this undertaking. From my first hand experience with the TPP negotiations I am confident the delegation is being kept to an efficient minimum. As a point of comparison, I have attached below a list providing the size of each delegation at the December 2013 Singapore Ministerial.

A copy of this letter will be circulated to offices of relevant portfolio Ministers.

Yours sincerely

  
Andrew Robb

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