

Benjamin Cronshaw

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Submissions to the Inquiry into the Australia-India Trade Agreement

I note that Australia has negotiated a trade agreement with India.

When done fairly, trade agreements can work beneficially for both countries and assist their trade sectors and the living standards of the population (in having access to more affordable and better quality goods - along with greater cultural diversity in goods).

India is a significant neighbour in our region, the Asia-Pacific region. With a population of over a billion people, which may overtake China within the next few years, India is a country of tremendous power and potential. Australia is deepening our relationship across various areas, including with security collaboration with the QUAD partnership (along with Japan and United States). With the tensions and difficulty in Australia's relationship with our main trading partner China (including restrictive trade actions by the latter amidst such tensions), it is also wise to diversify our trading portfolio. Hence, for many reasons, it makes sense to work together on deepening economic and trade ties with India.

This trade agreement is a promising sign that Australia and India can deepen our relationships and pursue closer ties. I support the Treaty and look forward to what our relationship can achieve in the future.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.