

## Senate Estimates – February 2023 – CEO opening statement

1. Xavier Simonet, CEO of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission.
2. Austrade is Australia's Commonwealth agency responsible for promoting international trade, investment and education, and for tourism policy.
3. As the world reopens, Austrade's role has never been more critical.
4. Australia's national prosperity, security and standard of living rely heavily on international trade, productive inbound investment, and the visitor economy.
5. Austrade is ambitious for Australia. We see more trade and investment outcomes as crucial to Australia's economic growth.
6. With that in mind, our strategic priorities for the year ahead include:
  - Connecting even more Australian businesses to the world with a focus on delivering sustainable and diversified commercial results in both outbound trade and inbound investment.
  - 2 • Driving market diversification and productive re-investment.
  - 3 • Delivering the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) program that will help Australian exporters to re-engage offshore markets.
  - 4 • Leading the THRIVE 2030 strategy, to return the visitor economy to long-term sustainable growth and leading the promotion of international education.
  - 5 • Extending our support for Australians overseas through our consular network.
  - 6 • And supporting simplified trade system reforms, including the simplification of cross-border regulations and government processes.
7. Trade is responsible for one in four jobs in Australia and investment creates one in ten jobs. Exporters employ more people on average and pay higher wages. Their collective value to the economy can't be overstated.
8. Austrade will continue to support our exporters and at the same time encourage other businesses to expand their horizons on the global stage.
9. I thank all our Austrade teams for their commitment to this important work.