



Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
Ref No: D0004

Mr. Ted O'Brien MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to bring to your attention the economic and commercial benefits of including Taiwan in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This letter represents the response of my association, Importers and Exporters Association and formal submission to the public consultation initiated by the Trade Sub-Committee under Australia Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The Importers and Exporters Association (IEAT) is the foremost trade organization in Taiwan. Our 6,100 corporate members represent 40% of Taiwan's total trade volume, and 60% of them are importers who trade with Taiwan's international partners including Australia on wide-ranging products including copper, beef, mutton, lamb, dairy products, butter, and fish. Founded in 1947, IEAT is dedicated to promoting international trade and has forged partnerships and signed MOUs with 149 trade associations in 50 countries. One of them is the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI). At the peak of the pandemic last year, IEAT sent a gift of medical masks to VECCI, to which President Ms. Karyn Sobels expressed thanks in her letter of appreciation.

Taiwan and Australia enjoy robust economic relations built upon reciprocity and complementarity. Taiwan is Australia's 10th largest export destination, and it offers vast market potential especially in wine, agricultural and fishery products. The market share of Australian products in Taiwan could further expand if our trading relationship can be enhanced through a cooperation platform like the CPTPP. A case in point is the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC) which went into force on 1 December 2013. Under the agreement, tariffs are eliminated on New Zealand exports such as dairy products, wood, fruits, frozen beef and lamb, wine, fish and seafood. To date, Taiwan-New Zealand bilateral trade has increased by 24 percent, with a 314.3 percent growth in the categories of tobacco, spirits and vinegar. We have also attached select products and their current tariffs for your reference.

As an active player in regional trade, Taiwan is very keen to join the CPTPP. According to the International Monetary Fund, Taiwan is the seventh largest economy in Asia by purchasing power parity. Despite its economic performance, Taiwan's entry to the CPTPP requires the strong support of key current members and trading partners, the most important one being Australia. The inclusion of Taiwan not only holds promise for immense economic benefits. Taiwan will, upon accession, commit to extensive trade liberalization and freer market access while bolstering cooperation with member economies.

It is our sincere hope that Australia will offer the support critical to Taiwan's entry into CPTPP so that greater business opportunities may be realized from enhanced regional economic integration.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

  
Secretary General  
Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei (IEAT)



## Attachment: Taiwan MFN and preferential tariffs for select products

HS-6	Product	Trade Volume (million USD; as in 2019)	MFN Tariff	Preferential Tariff for New Zealand
020230	Beef (frozen)	129	NT\$10/KGM	0%
020130	Beef (fresh or chilled)	51	NT\$10/KGM	0%
100199	Wheat	3.2	6.5%	0%
040291	Milk and cream, concentrated but unsweetened	38	20%	0%
020443	Meat of sheep	18	NT\$11.3/KGM or 15% whichever is higher	0%