



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Report 218:
Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement
relating to Supply Chain Resilience

OCTOBER 2024

Response

The Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that treaty actions are referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prior to action which binds Australia to the terms of the treaty.

Response:

The Government accepts this recommendation and reaffirms that consideration by JSCOT prior to any binding treaty action being taken is a fundamental component of Australia's treaty-making process.

The objective of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) has been to build treaty-level undertakings with close trading partners to frame ongoing cooperative activities on contemporary challenges that have until now not been systematically addressed.

The IPEF Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience (the Agreement) makes provision for signatories, who have yet to ratify, to participate in preparatory work such as developing the regional bodies established under the Agreement up until 24 February 2025 (12 months after entry into force). Australia has participated in developing terms of reference for these bodies to ensure they are established with sensitivity to Australia's interests. This action is not binding and has been pursued without prejudice to JSCOT's prerogative to review and report on the Agreement, prior to Australia taking binding treaty action.

Recommendation 4

The Committee supports the *Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience* and recommends that binding treaty action be taken.

Response:

The Government welcomes the Committee's agreement that binding treaty action be taken in relation to the *Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience*. Australia has implemented this recommendation and ratified the Agreement on 12 September 2024.