



Our Ref: Market 21-001

28 January 2021

Mr Ted O'Brien MP
Chair
Trade Sub-Committee
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 'Inquiry into expanding the membership of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership' (CPTPP).

Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) is the Queensland Government's dedicated global business agency, helping Queensland exporters take their products to world markets and promoting the State as the perfect investment destination. Through TIQ, the Queensland Government, has 16 offices in 12 markets and is focussed on strengthening market relationships, and identifying – and capturing – untapped opportunities in current and newly emerging sectors, and markets.

TIQ recognises the value and importance of the CPTPP to Australia, including in providing market access and by delivering new opportunities for Australian exporters, investors, and firms engaged in international business. TIQ also recognises the importance of India as a trading partner and would welcome Australia's promotion of expanding the CPTPP membership to include India.

India is Australia's eighth largest, and Queensland's fourth largest, trading partner. It is also one of the world's fastest growing economies and is predicted to be the world's third-largest economy by 2030. This presents significant opportunity for Australia. TIQ considers that the promotion, and inclusion, of India in the CPTPP could further increase Queensland's prospects with India, particularly for the Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS), international education, and agriculture sectors. Queensland has a world-leading METS sector and is recognised globally as a leading destination for mining and resources investment.

Queensland METS companies have excellent capabilities in providing digital solutions, safety and environmental management systems, knowledge and technology, minerals processing, contract mine servicing, mine site rehabilitation and various other fields of innovation. India's mining laws and regulations are similar to Queensland's and many of Queensland's METS

companies are engaged and have established relationships with Indian firms and providing their products and services. India has experienced near uninterrupted growth in steel production for two decades. As a result, India is the top destination for Australian coking coal exports, which is also Queensland's most valuable export to India.

India is currently the second largest market for international students for Australia and Queensland behind China. In the period January to October 2020, there were 143,011 Indian enrolments in Australia – a six per cent increase on the same period last year (Source: ABS). To further leverage this growing market, Study Queensland is focused on increasing international partnerships within universities and attracting high yield international students, and researchers, from India into Queensland. More detail on the initiatives and programs being implemented is available at www.studyqueensland.qld.gov.au.

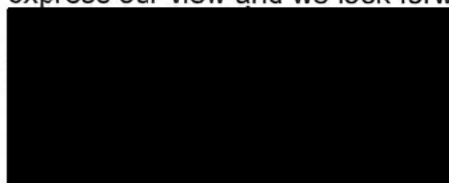
India has also been one of Queensland's top destinations for horticulture products specifically pulses. Consumer spending and market deregulation is now creating opportunities for technological innovations, Agtech solutions and new demand for processed foods through e-commerce channels and supermarkets in India. Queensland companies are well-placed to seize these opportunities, and TIQ anticipates that the inclusion of India in the CPTPP could further increase the export prospects of Queensland companies.

Through the CPTPP, Australia has preferential access to some of the largest and fastest growing markets of the Indo Pacific and South American regions. The CPTPP encompasses many neighbouring countries with whom India already has or is negotiating bipartite or block agreements. If India were to be included in the CPTPP, the combined effect of new market access opportunities and common rules would make it easier for Australian businesses, exporters, and consumers to participate in – and benefit from Global Value Chains.

As you know, in June 2020, Australia and India committed to elevate the bilateral Strategic Partnership concluded in 2009 to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)**. TIQ anticipates that the CSP with India will increase collaboration on science, technology and research, and opportunities across innovation and entrepreneurship, Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology, space, defence, and maritime cooperation.

TIQ is committed to continuing to build meaningful partnerships with India. TIQ is working to facilitate new relationships and increase collaboration with India, including via the *Queensland-India Trade and Investment Strategy 2018–23*, and aims to further strengthen its presence in India by appointing a new Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner.

Once again, on behalf of TIQ, I would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to express our view and we look forward to hearing from you on the outcomes of this Inquiry.



Steve Bredhauer
Chair
Trade and Investment Queensland