



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australia-India FTA Feasibility Study – Call for Submissions

Australia and India have agreed to undertake a joint feasibility study on the merits of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Terms of Reference (TOR) for the study are currently being finalised. It is expected the study will examine the potential impact on Australia and India of an FTA, including implications for economic growth, trade in goods and services, and investment, as well as for other commercial linkages.

The joint study is expected to be completed by early 2009.

The trade and investment relationship between Australia and India is important to both countries and is growing rapidly. In 2007, India was our six largest market for goods exports. It was our sixth largest market for goods and services combined in 2006-07. It is also our fastest growing major export market – with both goods and services exports increasing by an annual average of over 32 per cent over the last five years. Two-way trade in goods and services in 2006-07 totalled \$13.6 billion making India our ninth largest trading partner.

Submissions

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) seeks public submissions and comments on the merits of an FTA with India, including on any particular market access issues and/or other factors affecting two-way trade and investment with India.

Interested parties are invited to lodge submissions. Brief as well as detailed submissions/comments are welcome. All submissions will be made publicly available on the DFAT website unless the authors specify otherwise.

Submissions may be sent by email to india.ftastudy@dfat.gov.au or mailed to:

Ms Carol Robertson
Australia-India FTA Feasibility Study
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

General Guidance on Preparing Submissions

Stakeholder submissions will assist the Australian Government in developing its approach and priorities for the negotiation of any future bilateral FTA.

Submissions are welcome in a range of forms – from a short email to more lengthy analytical contributions. Authors of submissions should advise if they do not wish their name and/or the text of their submission to be posted on this website.

In informing Australia's approach and priorities, those making submissions could consider providing the following information:

- For **goods trade**, market access issues which might include: tariffs, tariff-rate quotas, and non-tariff issues such as import licensing, technical regulations and standards, customs administration, quarantine requirements, and transport/distribution.
- For **services trade**, possible issues could include the ability to deliver services through a variety of mechanisms, including establishing a commercial presence in India and/or the option for Australians to work in India; and issues relating to the recognition of qualifications and granting of licences to practise a particular profession.
- In relation to the **import of both goods and services**, stakeholder views are sought on the costs and benefits of removing tariffs and any others measures affecting imports from India.
- Views are welcome on any measures that may impact on **investment** in either direction.

Views are also welcome on the specific issues which potentially cut across trade and investment in other sectors, including for instance **intellectual property, competition policy, and government procurement**, and how an FTA could address these issues to advance two-way trade and investment.

Additional Information

For a political and economic overview of India and more information on Australia's bilateral relations with India, go to the [India country information](#) page on the DFAT website.

- See also [Australia and India building a stronger relationship](#), Trade Minister media release, 20 January 2008