



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

ASEAN – Australia – New Zealand FTA Timeline

Early 1990s	The Australian government initiates efforts to develop links between the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) agreement.
November 1993	Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Supachai, makes supportive comments about linking AFTA and CER at trade conference in Melbourne.
September 1995	Informal consultations between Ministers from ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand in Brunei agree to “region to region linkages” between AFTA and CER.
October 1999	ASEAN, Australian and New Zealand Ministers establish a High Level Task Force to examine the feasibility of an AFTA-CER Free Trade Area.
October 2000	The High Level Task Force report “The Angkor Agenda” supports the establishment of an AFTA-CER free trade agreement.
September 2002	AFTA-CER Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) established.
November 2004	Leaders from the 10 ASEAN countries, Australia and New Zealand agree in Laos to launch negotiations on a comprehensive FTA covering goods and services, as well as investment.
March 2005	AANZFTA negotiations begin in Manila.
2005 – 2008	16 rounds of negotiations.
28 August 2008	ASEAN, Australian and New Zealand Ministers meet in Singapore.

For further information: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade>