

Quote in reply: International Law and Relations Section:21000325/57

Office of the President 3 August 2009

Korea FTA Task Force  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
RG Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221

By Email: [KoreaFTA@dfat.gov.au](mailto:KoreaFTA@dfat.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

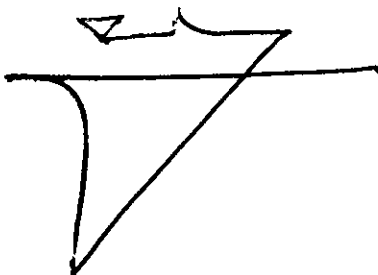
### **AUSTRALIA-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: ROUND 1 OF NEGOTIATIONS**

The Queensland Law Society (QLS) would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Australia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (Australia-Korea FTA). The QLS is the peak professional body for State's legal practitioners and we lead a profession of more than 7,500 members throughout Queensland. The QLS is a constituent body of the Law Council of Australia and is comprised of several specialist committees who provide policy advice to the QLS Council on areas of concern to the profession. This response has been compiled with the assistance of the Society's International Law and Relations Section members who have a keen awareness of the issues affecting this area of the law and welcomed the opportunity to provide comments in regards to this instrument.

I believe that the Australia-Korea FTA is a positive step in developing our relationship with Australia's fourth-largest export and sixth-largest overall trading partner and seeking greater integration with other regional economies. With respect to the legal services sector, I consider that it would be beneficial to facilitate bilateral recognition of law degrees which would facilitate business between the two nations. This mutual benefit would be enhanced and realised by virtue of the fact that lawyers from both Australia and Korea may gain a broader depth of experience in the Asia-Pacific legal market. There may also be a benefit to legal firms which are considering establishing offices in the region. In this regard, I am impressed by the Honourable Simon Crean MP's commitment to the Australia-Korea FTA being a high-quality, comprehensive and commercially-meaningful agreement.

As President of the QLS and a member of the Society's International Law and Relations Section, I have a particular interest in this matter and would appreciate if the Department continued to keep us abreast of any further developments in the next round of negotiations.

Yours faithfully



Ian Berry  
President

