

18 August 2025

# **Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement**

Submission prepared by the Australian Alliance for Animals





## About the Australian Alliance for Animals

The Australian Alliance for Animals is a national charity leading a strategic alliance of Australia's key animal protection organisations to achieve systemic change for animals. Through our six core member organisations, we have a combined supporter base of over two million people.

Learn more about our work on our website: [www.allianceforanimals.org.au](http://www.allianceforanimals.org.au)



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*In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their enduring connection to land, sea and community. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.*

18 August 2025

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### **Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations. We represent six of Australia's leading animal protection organisations with a combined supporter base of over 2 million Australians. Our members include Animals Australia, Compassion in World Farming, Humane World for Animals Australia, World Animal Protection Australia, FOUR PAWS Australia, and Voiceless, the animal protection institute.

Animal welfare is of great concern to the Australian community and is an increasingly important component of sustainable development having implications for all three pillars of sustainability – economic, social, and environmental. International trade agreements play a major role in shaping Australian trade, industry and business policy and practice on a range of matters, including standards of animal welfare. It is important that such agreements protect and promote practices that are consistent with Australian values and do not inadvertently undermine local standards of production consistent with Australian animal welfare regulatory requirements.

This should be considered and recognised in any trade agreement that Australia is party to. Australia is well placed to be an international leader in animal welfare practices and should seek to capitalise on this comparative advantage and market opportunity.

The Australia-India CECA negotiations present a significant opportunity for the Australian Government to demonstrate its commitment to high animal welfare standards and sustainable development practices.



Australia has recently concluded trade agreements with the United Kingdom (A-UKFTA) and the United Arab Emirates (A-UAE CEPA) which each recognise the importance of animal welfare.<sup>1</sup> Animal welfare is also likely to be recognised in any future FTA with the European Union should an agreement be reached. We commend DFAT negotiators for their initiative and dedication to securing positive animal welfare recognition in these negotiations.

There is now also precedent for India recognising the importance of animal welfare. The United Kingdom recently concluded a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with India. Article 6.12 of the UK-India CETA recognises the connection between the improved health of farmed animals and the welfare of farmed animals and that the protection and improvement of animal welfare may be an interest in the context of each Party's trade objectives. It also commits the Parties to cooperation in the field of animal welfare including the exchange of information, expertise and experience, and in relation to the development of standards under the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Similar recognition and commitment to cooperation should be built into the Australia-India CECA. This would demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to positively influencing global standards of animal welfare and provide a forum for bilateral discussions to promote continuous improvement and to address any animal welfare issues that may arise in relation to products traded under the CECA.

We trust our submission has been of assistance. We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with relevant DFAT personnel to discuss these issues in further detail and to receive an update on the progress of the negotiations. I can be contacted on 0407 237 492 or [jed.goodfellow@allianceforanimals.org.au](mailto:jed.goodfellow@allianceforanimals.org.au) to arrange a suitable meeting time.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jed Goodfellow  
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<sup>1</sup> See Articles 25.1 and 21.4, respectively.