

20 March 2023

FTA Coordination Section
Free Trade Agreements and Stakeholder Engagement
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

Dear Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

I am writing to express my strong support for the negotiation of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia.

A CEPA would serve to strengthen the economic relationship between the UAE and Australia and provide a framework for increased trade and investment. By reducing trade barriers and increasing market access, a CEPA would provide numerous benefits to both countries.

For Australian businesses, a CEPA with the UAE would provide a significant opportunity to expand into new markets and increase export opportunities. The UAE is a rapidly growing market with a diverse range of industries, including construction, tourism, and finance. With its strategic location at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa, the UAE is an important gateway to these regions. Furthermore, a CEPA would facilitate greater regulatory cooperation and harmonization between the UAE and Australia. This would help to reduce costs and increase efficiencies for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, by simplifying and streamlining regulatory requirements.

In addition, a CEPA would promote greater investment between the two countries, particularly in key areas such as energy, infrastructure, and technology. By providing a stable and predictable framework for investment, a CEPA would help to create a favourable business environment that would attract investors from both countries.

Overall, a CEPA between the UAE and Australia is necessary to unlock the full potential of the economic relationship between the two countries. By reducing trade barriers, increasing market access, and promoting greater regulatory cooperation and investment, a CEPA would provide significant benefits to both countries and create new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely



Geoffrey H Levy, AO
Chairman

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