

FTA Coordination Section
Free Trade Agreements and Stakeholder Engagement
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Subject: Supporting the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the UAE and Australia

To whom it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well. I recently returned from a trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was truly impressed by the opportunities the country offers. As a proud Australian, I believe that a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the UAE and Australia will be of great mutual benefit to both nations.

My experience in the UAE was nothing short of remarkable. The country is safe, clean, and rich in natural resources, which provides a solid foundation for growth and investment. Furthermore, the UAE's emphasis on innovation and technological advancements aligns well with Australia's progressive mindset and commitment to fostering cutting-edge industries.

As I understand, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation are currently in the early stages of negotiating a CEPA. I wholeheartedly support this initiative, as I believe it has the potential to foster new business opportunities, enhance cultural exchange, and stimulate economic growth in both countries.

During my visit to the UAE, I observed several areas in which a CEPA could facilitate trade and investment between our nations:

1. **Renewable energy and sustainability:** The UAE is making significant strides in renewable energy and sustainable practices, which could complement Australia's ongoing efforts in these fields. A CEPA would enable knowledge sharing and collaborative projects, driving advancements in clean energy and environmental conservation.
2. **Tourism and hospitality:** With the UAE's impressive hospitality infrastructure and Australia's world-renowned natural beauty, a CEPA could bolster tourism and cultural exchange between our nations, creating jobs and supporting local economies.
3. **Agribusiness and food security:** Australia's expertise in agriculture and food production could be leveraged to help the UAE enhance its food security, while also opening new markets for Australian agribusinesses.
4. **Education and research:** A CEPA could facilitate partnerships between Australian and Emirati universities and research institutions, leading to collaborative research and innovation in areas such as technology, medicine, and environmental sciences.
5. **Mutual investment:** Both nations have some of the world's largest Sovereign Wealth Funds. Streamlining investments by these entities in each others' nations, should lead to accelerated growth and prosperity for Australia and the UAE.

These are just a few examples of the potential benefits that a CEPA could bring to both countries. By making it easier for Australians and Emiratis to do business with one another, this agreement could unlock a wealth of opportunities for growth and prosperity.

I sincerely hope that my insights will be valuable to DFAT and the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in their pursuit of a mutually beneficial CEPA. I am optimistic that this agreement will strengthen the bonds between our two nations and help create a bright and prosperous future for us all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Jerry Stesel
Partner
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