



Outcomes: Improving the business environment

RCEP will contain rules that capture recent advances in international trade rule-making and future-proof the ways in which Australian exporters can conduct business activities across all RCEP countries.

Intellectual Property

RCEP will provide increased certainty to rights' holders and users by establishing a strong platform for the development of consistent Intellectual Property (IP) rules throughout the region, including rules that will help create an enabling environment for business to trade digitally. RCEP will establish balanced rules for the effective creation, utilisation, protection, and enforcement of intellectual property rights, including copyright and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, patents, and protection of plant varieties, without requiring any changes to Australia's existing IP settings.

RCEP will affirm and complement the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual property. Key outcomes will include:

- enhanced benefits to trade and investment through the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights;
- access to due process mechanisms for Australian producers to support the appropriate granting of geographical indications, including through international agreements;
- improved transparency of intellectual property systems, making it easier for traders to obtain information about existing rights;
- disciplines on the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions (folklore);
- mechanisms to facilitate cooperation in the region in relation to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Competition

RCEP's Competition Chapter will include obligations for parties to maintain competition laws and regulations that proscribe anti-competitive activities, and ensure independent enforcement. The Chapter will include obligations to adopt or maintain domestic laws or regulations to proscribe the use in trade of misleading practices, or false or misleading descriptions. It will also provide for cooperation between the parties on consumer protection and on competition law enforcement.

Government Procurement

RCEP is the first Agreement where ASEAN as a whole, as well as a number of individual RCEP countries, have included rules on government procurement in a trade agreement. Government Procurement of goods and services are an important generator of domestic economic activity in the Indo-Pacific region.





The chapter will support improved transparency and cooperation on central government procurement and will promote greater economic integration among RCEP member countries.

Small and Medium Enterprises

RCEP's dedicated chapter on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will provide a platform and framework for RCEP parties to undertake economic cooperation programs and activities that can enhance the capability of SMEs, including microenterprises, to participate in and benefit from the opportunities created by the Agreement.

