

PROTOCOL TO THE
SINGAPORE-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
ON
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

PREAMBLE

The Government of Australia (“Australia”) and the Government of the Republic of Singapore (“Singapore”), hereinafter individually referred to as a “Party” or collectively as “the Parties”:

Recalling their deep and longstanding relationship, anchored in deep strategic trust and the renewed Australia-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

Further recalling the *Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement* done at Singapore on 17 February 2003, which entered into force on 28 July 2003, with subsequent amendments (hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”);

Reiterating the importance of, and their commitment to, a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region in which sovereignty is respected;

Recognising their shared objective of ensuring their partnership continues to evolve to support their mutual prosperity and common strategic interests, and to address contemporary economic, trade, investment and economic resilience challenges;

Further recognising the significant contribution of trade liberalisation in essential supplies for enhancing supply chain resilience, and that it is in their mutual interest to strengthen linkages to the rest of the world and keep trade lines open, including via air and sea freight to facilitate the trade of essential supplies;

Recognising the priority the Parties accord each other with respect to trade in essential supplies and acknowledging the importance of endeavouring not to, in relation to supply chain disruptions, adopt export prohibitions or restrictions on essential supplies to the other Party;

Re-emphasising their commitment to the open, rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core, and their commitment to the trade agreements to which they are both party, and the role this collective system of rules plays in underpinning their respective, shared and regional economic resilience; and

Desiring to further enhance cooperation through existing bilateral frameworks and mechanisms to support economic resilience, trade and investment between the Parties, including to identify, address and minimise the impacts of economic resilience-related challenges facing their respective countries and the region;

Have agreed as follows:

OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

Objectives

The objectives of this Protocol are to enhance cooperation on economic resilience and to secure the trade in essential supplies between the Parties during times of supply chain disruptions, including by: establishing the Australia-Singapore Economic Resilience Dialogue; seeking to manage and minimise supply chain disruptions between the Parties to the extent possible; and endeavouring not to adopt export prohibitions or restrictions on essential supplies to the other Party.

ARTICLE 2

General Provisions

1. In accordance with Article 11 (Amendments) of Chapter 17 (Final Provisions) of the Agreement, the Parties have agreed to amend the Agreement to include this Protocol and its Appendix.
2. This Protocol and its Appendix shall form an integral part of the Agreement. The Appendix shall be incorporated as Annex 1A (Economic Resilience and Essential Supplies) to Chapter 2 (Trade in Goods) of the Agreement.
3. This Protocol and its Appendix are without prejudice to each Party's existing rights and obligations under the Agreement or any other trade agreement to which both are party.

AUSTRALIA-SINGAPORE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE DIALOGUE

ARTICLE 3

Australia-Singapore Economic Resilience Dialogue

1. For the purposes of the effective implementation and operation of this Protocol, the Parties agree to establish the Australia-Singapore Economic Resilience Dialogue ("Dialogue") to facilitate cooperation on economic resilience challenges and trade in essential supplies, including pursuant to this Protocol.
2. The Dialogue shall be co-chaired by senior government representatives of each Party.

3. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation, which shall include representatives from government agencies as required by the agenda of each Dialogue meeting.

4. The Dialogue shall:

- (a) consider any matter relating to the implementation or operation of this Protocol;
- (b) as appropriate, coordinate with other relevant bilateral dialogues and exchanges;
- (c) review, within three years of the date of entry into force of this Protocol and at least every five years thereafter, the operation of this Protocol and the economic resilience relationship between the Parties, with a view to ensuring that this Protocol remains relevant to the issues and challenges facing the Parties;
- (d) consider any proposal to amend or modify this Protocol; and
- (e) consider, develop and implement approaches to further enhance economic resilience cooperation between the Parties.

5. The Dialogue may:

- (a) seek the advice of non-governmental persons or groups on any matter falling within the Dialogue's functions, and may invite, by consensus, such persons or groups to attend meetings of the Dialogue; and
- (b) take any other action as the Parties may agree.

6. The Dialogue may discuss areas for cooperation, including as set out in the *Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Resilience* (as amended periodically) and below, but not limited to:

- (a) strengthening the open, rules-based multilateral trading system, including through cooperation on necessary reforms;
- (b) strengthening cooperation in relation to energy, resources and agricultural trade, including through the Ministerial Dialogue on Energy;
- (c) increasing the resilience of essential supply chains of mutual importance, and promoting supply chain resilience;
- (d) exploring opportunities for deepening maritime shipping cooperation, to enhance the resilience of essential supply chains, particularly during any disruption;
- (e) responsibly developing, adopting and protecting cyber and digital technologies;

- (f) investment attraction and review, including through initiatives related, but not limited to, promoting partnerships between investment and trade agencies of the Parties;
 - (g) examining relevant provisions and mechanisms for enhancing facilitation of trade in essential supplies between the Parties under other arrangements or agreements to which both Parties are party, including under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience;
 - (h) intensifying cooperation to facilitate the timely movement of goods and essential supplies through enhanced coordination, efficient border and port processes, transparency and early consultation; and
 - (i) other topics as agreed by the Parties relating to economic resilience.
7. The Dialogue shall meet as agreed between the Parties, and in any case no later than one year after the date of entry into force of this Protocol.
8. Meetings of the Dialogue shall be held alternately in the territories of the Parties, unless the Parties otherwise agree. Extraordinary meetings of the Dialogue may also be convened as agreed by the Parties.
9. Except as otherwise provided in this Protocol, the Dialogue shall carry out its work through whatever means are appropriate, which may include electronic mail or videoconferencing.

CONTACT POINTS

ARTICLE 4

Contact Points

1. Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the primary points of contact for the Parties for communication, consultation and information exchange, as well as any notice required to be submitted under this Protocol will be:
- (a) for the Government of Australia: the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or its successor; and
 - (b) for the Government of the Republic of Singapore: the Ministry of Trade and Industry or its successor.

2. The primary points of contact for each Party shall, pursuant to Article 6 (Contact Point) of Chapter 17 (Final Provisions) of the Agreement, assist in facilitating communication with its relevant agencies and the other Party.
3. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party, in writing, of any changes to its primary point of contact or any other contact point.

ARTICLE 5

Entry into Force

This Protocol and its Appendix shall enter into force on the date on which the Parties have exchanged notes confirming the completion of their respective procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE, in duplicate, at Adelaide, Australia on 27 July 2026.

APPENDIX

(ANNEX 1A – ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES)

ANNEX 1A

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Annex:

- (a) “essential supplies” means:
 - (i) petroleum oils, such as diesel, and liquefied natural gas; and
 - (ii) other goods critical to either Party’s economy, as mutually decided, as set out in the *Memorandum of Understanding on Essential Supplies* which may be amended in accordance with the amendment provisions of that Memorandum of Understanding; and
- (b) “supply chain disruption” means a severe interruption, delay, or shortage that has an impact on one or both Parties and on the production, cross-border movement of, or access to, materials, articles or commodities, as determined by either Party.

ARTICLE 2

Export Prohibitions and Restrictions related to Essential Supplies

1. Each Party shall endeavour not to adopt or maintain any prohibition or restriction pursuant to paragraph 2(a) of Article XI of GATT 1994 on the exportation or sale for export of any essential supplies to the other Party.
2. If, despite paragraph 1, a Party (the Adopting Party) proposes to adopt such a prohibition or restriction, it shall:
 - (a) seek to limit such prohibition or restriction to the extent necessary, giving due consideration to any negative effects on the other Party’s security of essential supplies; and
 - (b) provide notice pursuant to Article 3 of this Annex to the other Party, prior to adopting such a prohibition or restriction.

ARTICLE 3

Consultation and Transparency in Relation to Supply Chain Disruptions

1. If a Party experiences a supply chain disruption, or expects an imminent supply chain disruption, affecting trade in essential supplies, the Party may request consultations with the other Party with a view to introducing appropriate response measures that would facilitate the efficient movement of affected essential supplies. The requesting Party shall share relevant information about the supply chain disruption, such as the cause and expected duration of the supply chain disruptions, to the extent practicable.
2. In the event of a supply chain disruption, or in the event that a Party expects an imminent supply chain disruption, affecting trade in essential supplies between the Parties, a Party (the Requesting Party) may, by way of notice in writing, request emergency consultations with the other Party (the Requested Party). The Requested Party shall respond to the Requesting Party and enter into such consultations within 30 days of receipt of the notice, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
3. Where a Party introduces a measure in response to a supply chain disruption that it considers is likely to significantly affect the trade in essential supplies between the Parties, that Party shall give notice to the other, to the extent practicable before the implementation of that measure or as soon as possible thereafter. Such notice shall include relevant information about the measure, including the nature, start date and expected duration, and the rationale of the measure to the extent practicable.
4. Consultations may be conducted via any means mutually agreed by the Parties. Consultations shall be conducted with a view to minimising the impact of a supply chain disruption on the Parties, including any disruption to essential supplies traded between the Parties.

ARTICLE 4

Review and Withdrawal of Measures

As the circumstances relevant to the prohibition or restriction ease, the adopting Party shall review the application of the prohibition or restriction, with a view to easing its application as soon as possible and withdrawing such a measure as soon as practicable if the adopting Party considers the circumstances giving rise to its introduction no longer exist.