

**Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Limited**

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Mr Tim Yeend  
First Assistant Secretary  
Office of Trade Negotiations  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
R.G. Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221

**Possible Australian Participation in a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement**

Dear Mr Yeend,

The sugar industry is a strong and consistent supporter of Australia's trade agenda multilateral, regional and bilateral and is devoting significant resources to the goal of securing an improved trade environment for sugar as a means of improving the long-term sustainability of the industry. There is no question that opening markets for agricultural products like sugar will deliver food security and improve environmental outcomes.

Expansion of the current Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (Trans-Pacific Agreement) between Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore (P4) through the proposed inclusion of the United States of America and possibly Australia along with others would provide another avenue to achieve this objective, particularly if any resulting trade agreement becomes a building block for a larger strategic agreement for trade liberalisation within the Asia-Pacific region.

Progress in the WTO Doha round has been slow, often at the cost of ambition being taken from the negotiations. In this environment, the sugar industry supports the negotiation of comprehensive bilateral and regional trade agreements that include worthwhile improvements in market access. A worthwhile Trans-Pacific Agreement may also reinvigorate bilateral negotiations presently in train.

New Zealand sees expansion of the P4 as a means of developing a trade agreement with the USA that includes a substantial market access outcome. While Australia has trade agreements with each P4 country, further gains may be possible in an expanded Trans-Pacific Agreement. For example Australia's participation would provide an opportunity to reengage the USA on market access for sugar, a significant exclusion from the Australia-USA FTA. The Australia-USA FTA is the only FTA that either country has concluded that totally excludes sugar.

In addition to the market access outcome, Australia's participation at the outset would enable Australia to be involved in and influence the development of the "ground

rules" for the proposed expansion of the Trans-Pacific Agreement. This will be important if it does become the cornerstone of a wider APEC FTA.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Warren Males at Queensland Sugar Limited in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian McMaster', written in a cursive style.

Ian McMaster  
Chairman