



Free Trade Agreements

High-quality, comprehensive free trade agreements are playing an important role in supporting global trade liberalisation. FTAs have opened opportunities for Australian exporters and investors to expand their businesses into key overseas markets. By improving market access for goods, services and delivering more business and investment opportunities, FTAs will help to maintain and stimulate the competitiveness of Australian firms.

Australia's FTA negotiations are increasingly focused on the so-called 'behind the border' issues including factors such as standards, professional qualifications, intellectual property rights and competition policies, in addition to addressing tariff barriers.

Australia has nine FTAs currently in force with New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, US, Chile, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (with New Zealand), Malaysia, Korea and Japan. The countries covered by these FTAs account for 42 per cent of Australia's total trade.

Australia concluded FTA negotiations with China in November 2014. The agreement will enter into force when domestic processes have been completed. China accounts for 23 per cent of Australia's total trade.

Australia is currently engaged in six other FTA negotiations - two bilateral FTA negotiations: India and Indonesia; and four plurilateral FTA negotiations: the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Pacific Trade and Economic Agreement (PACER Plus), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP). The additional countries covered by these negotiations account for a further six per cent of Australia's total trade.

There is much debate about the relative advantages and disadvantages of FTAs. It is important for regional businesses to have the capacity to take advantage of the opportunities. This Free Trade Agreement workshop will give you practical, up to date information about the benefits of our newest FTAs with China, Japan and Korea and how to use them.

The workshop leaders are Simon Boughey and Michael Growder.



Simon Boughey, CEO of Cherry Growers Australia and member of **SEGRA** National Steering Committee

Simon Boughey is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Cherry Growers Australia. Cherries are grown in more than 20 regions in all States across Australia.

Simon was Senior Adviser to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water in Tasmania for 6 years. Prior to that he managed the Promotion, Communication, Marketing Implementation and Community Partnerships area of Tasmania Together, a community vision and plan for Tasmania out to 2020.

Previous employment has seen him as the:

- State Landcare Coordinator; and
- National Landcare Program Coordinator with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

Simon holds a BA majoring in Geography and Psychology, a Graduate Diploma of Recreation Planning in Natural Resources Management and Honours in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies and is currently an Honorary Associate at University of Tasmania. Simon was the National President of Greening Australia from 2000 to 2003 and was appointed a Regional Director to the Area Consultative Committee in Tasmania in July 2004 until August 2009.

Simon has worked and had an involvement in community and regional development since 1981 and been on the *SEGRA* National Steering Committee since 2009.



Michael Growder, Assistant Secretary, FTA Outreach Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Michael Growder is currently an Assistant Secretary in DFAT's Free Trade Agreement Division, where he is responsible for advocacy work on the recently-concluded north Asia FTAs. He has just returned from a posting as Public Affairs Counsellor in the Australian Embassy in Beijing (2012 to 2014), and was also formerly posted to the Australian Embassy in Hanoi as First Secretary responsible for economic and trade policy issues (2005-2007).

Michael was previously part of the negotiating teams working on the China, Japan and Korea FTAs, and has also written published reports on Australian commercial opportunities in India and China. Prior to joining DFAT, Michael worked at the Reserve Bank of Australia for several years. He graduated from the University of Queensland with degrees in Economics and Mandarin Chinese.

Program Thursday 22 October

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| 9:00am | Welcome and outline of the workshop |
| 9:10am-10:00am | What will FTA's mean for rural communities, where might be the competitive advantage; what sorts of changes will the reforms lead to? |
| 10:00am | Morning tea |
| 10:15am-11:00am | Q&A |
| 11:00am-11:30am | Kuro Kin Wagyu in the Hunter Valley by Peter William Bishop, Director, Kuro Kin Wagyu and co-presenter Peter Hubert Bishop, Kuro Kin Wagyu |
| 11:30am-12:00pm | Horticulture and FTA's |
| 12:00pm-12:30pm | FTA from a regional perspective – what responses can participants make to create the right conditions for investment |
| 12:30pm-1:00pm | Final discussions and questions |

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