



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Office of Best Practice Regulation

Reference: 17783  
Telephone: 6271 6270  
e-mail: helpdesk@obpr.gov.au

Ms Jan Adams  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dear Ms Adams

#### **Final Regulation Impact Statement – First Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA)**

Thank you for forwarding the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for the above proposal for final assessment on 11 November 2014. I note that you have formally certified the RIS as required by the best practice regulation requirements.

I note that the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) was required to assess the RIS for consistency and adequacy and respond in writing with five working days. I apologise that this has not occurred in this instance; the OBPR final assessment is that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the department) is compliant with the Government's RIS requirements and is consistent with best practice.

Our comments of 23 October 2014 on the initial draft have been appropriately addressed, and the department has been consistent with the RIS guidelines, having twice provided a certified details-stage RIS to the OBPR for the two-pass assessment before the decision-maker considers the RIS. This assessment is based on:

- the regulatory savings having been agreed with the OBPR; and
- your letter of 11 November 2014 certifying that the issues raised in the OBPR's formal assessment of the RIS on 23 October 2014 have been addressed.

In addition, the RIS: addresses the seven RIS questions; does not contain obvious errors; and considers a minimum of three policy options, one of which is a non-regulatory option.

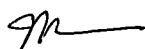
The OBPR notes that the recommended option – to implement the First Protocol – has the potential to remove regulatory impediments and reduce the regulatory requirements and compliance costs for Australian businesses making use of AANZFTA to import or export goods.

Additionally, the OBPR maintains a RIS website and the Government requires that RISs be posted within five business days of a regulatory decision being publicly announced. Please

forward a final copy of the RIS in *Microsoft Word .doc* format in a form meeting the Australian Government's *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines*. We suggest liaising with your web services team to ensure these guidelines are met. The OBPR should be consulted if the RIS is amended. It is the agency preparing the RIS, not the OBPR, which is responsible for the content of the published RIS.

Please retain this letter as a record of the OBPR's advice. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Jason McNamara  
Executive Director  
Office of Best Practice Regulation  
26 November 2014