



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Mr Jason Lange  
Executive Director  
Office of Best Practice Regulation  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600  
Email: helpdesk-OBPR@pmc.gov.au

13 July 2020

Dear Mr Lange

**Regulation Impact Statement –final assessment second pass**

I am writing in relation to the attached Second Pass Final Assessment Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for the *Australia-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement (DEA)*.

A First Pass Final Assessment RIS was submitted to the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) on 11 May 2020 (Reference Number 25709). I understand that this letter will be published with the RIS and the OBPR's final assessment once the final decision is announced.

I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the comments made in your letter of 18 May 2020. Specifically, it addresses comments provided by OBPR in relation to:

- Including greater detail on the barriers the agreement will address and the extent to which these barriers currently exist.
- Providing further analysis on why the current SAFTA agreement (or the specific chapter therein) is not achieving the desired outcome.
- Providing further analysis of the outcomes of consultation with business and industry, to include a stronger sense of stakeholders' views, not just who was consulted.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS meets best practice consistent with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation Impact Analysis*.

I submit the RIS to the OBPR for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. M. Bowes'.

Elisabeth Bowes  
First Assistant Secretary and Chief Negotiator  
Regional Trade Agreements Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade