



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Deputy Secretary

16 September 2024

Ms Joanna Abhayaratna
Executive Director
Office of Impact Analysis
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Email: Helpdesk-OIA@pmc.gov.au

Dear Ms Abhayaratna

Impact Analysis: Australia–United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement – Second Pass Final Assessment

Thank you for your letter of 11 September commenting on the First Pass Assessment of the Impact Analysis (IA) prepared for the signing of the Australia–United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (UAE CEPA).

I would like to thank you and your team for the engagement and support during this process. Negotiations on the UAE CEPA have now concluded, which has enabled the Department to include more comprehensive information in the attached IA for the Second Pass Assessment.

Please note that independent analysis used to support the IA by the Centre for International Economics will be published on the DFAT website once the CEPA has been signed.

As you requested, the attached IA now includes:

- further details on key affected stakeholders
- analysis of how the costs and benefits of signing or not signing CEPA would impact a range of stakeholders
- details of the key negotiated outcomes of CEPA, and updated data on its impact on Australian businesses and the Australian economy
- expanded analysis of how signing CEPA will address the problem identified in the IA, and why not signing would be detrimental to Australia's interests

- updated graphs and data tables, responding to the requests for further details in the attachment to your letter
- further explanation on the issues identified in the attachment to your letter, including articulating objectives through the SMART framework
- a one-page executive summary
- a separate table of the Regulatory Burden Measurement costs associated with signing CEPA.

The IA meets the requirements set out in your letter and the Australian Government Guide to Policy Impact Analysis and is consistent with the six principles for Australian Government policy makers. As such, I submit the IA to the Office of Impact Analysis for Second Pass Final Assessment.

The Department has worked hard to develop an evidence-based IA while also finalising negotiations with the UAE. The CEPA is a top trade and investment priority for the Government. If your team has any remaining questions or concerns about the IA, we would be grateful if they could contact us. As always, we will endeavour to meet your expectations within the time available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Mina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

George Mina