

ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA

After the Singapore Special TNC, 23-25 July, and 8 August meeting of ASEAN and CER Senior Economic Officials, the text of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), is now largely agreed and represents a solid set of outcomes for New Zealand.

The negotiations are now in their closing phase and it is hoped that AANZFTA can be concluded by the end of the year. Nevertheless, some outstanding issues remain. In particular considerable work is required to lift ASEAN ambitions in goods and services market access.

With the end in sight, negotiators have planned an intensive series of bilateral visits to ASEAN capitals over the coming weeks. AANZFTA Senior Economic Officials will also meet in advance of the 28 August ASEAN Economic Minister's discussion on AANZFTA in Singapore. Those meetings will seek to further advance the remaining outstanding issues.

While negotiations are now in their closing phase, we continue to welcome contact from stakeholders on this important agreement.

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