



**TERRY**  
**MILLS** MLA

Independent  
Member for

**BLAIN**

No. 226

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**Report on Travel to Attend the Biennial Australia Indonesia Business Council  
Conference and Australia Indonesia Business Week Forum**

11th of November to 16th November 2016

Approval was granted to travel to Perth to attend the AIBC 2016 Event as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and as a member of the Northern Territory Committee of the AIBC. The Member was accompanied by his spouse.

This report covers two significant events and provided a unique focus on the bilateral relationship with a specific focus on trade.

The Australian Indonesia Business Week preceded the Biennial Australia Indonesia Business Council 2016 Conference.

The first event was planned to include a visit by the president of the Republic of Indonesia however due to an emerging crisis centred in Jakarta relating to opposition to Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama 'Ahok' President Jokowi at late notice was required to reschedule his visit for another time in 2017.

Though the postponement was unfortunate the event still attracted significant support from most Australian states and many Indonesian provinces and many matters of specific trade concern were discussed.

As a delegate I attended the Agriculture briefing which focussed on the cattle trade.

**Key Outcomes and Recommendations:**

- The Northern Territory had a good presence at both events. AIBC NT members and a representative of the NT Government were in attendance.
- Dialogue is within the context of bilateral trade but in reality the focus is on the activities of States and Territories and each ones effort in engaging Indonesia.
- Focus should be more on two areas: Coordination between Australian States and the Territory where our mutual efforts could benefit. For example NT and WA could cooperate more around cattle and mining and NT and SA could cooperate on tourism and produce.
- Focus on engagement at a Provincial level rather than national. So State to Province rather than State to national.

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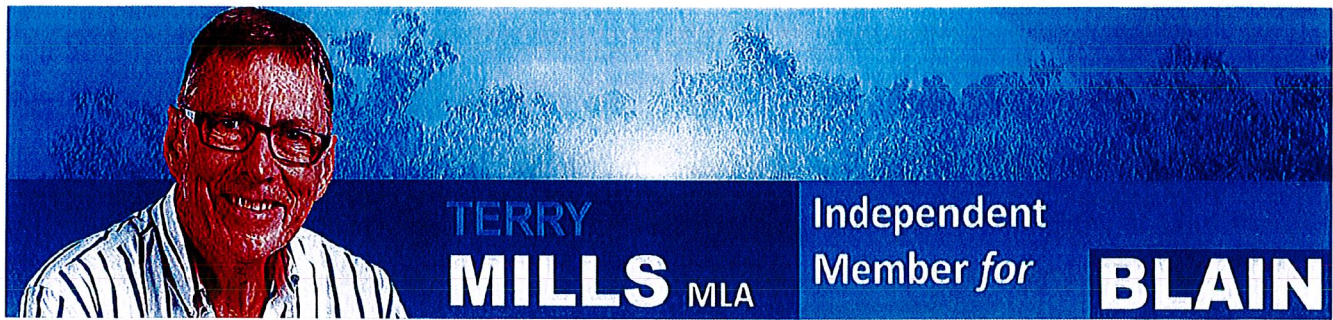
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- The Trans Pacific Partnership is expected to stall or stop completely this provides more oxygen to the Indonesia Australia- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- An emerging focus of the IA-CEPA is toward the service sector which means for the Northern Territory Education and Tourism will become more important areas to consider. Important as this will serve to expand the narrative beyond cattle.
- The AIBC is an important organisation that brings together business and people to build the bilateral trading relationship to mutual benefit. Those who have worked in this area know how difficult it is to make progress but the rewards are significant.
- The AIBC provides policy and practical support to those involved in building these trading links and one of these key areas is around the IA-CEPA negotiations. The role of the IABC is to ensure business interests are realistically addressed and accommodated.

*The following two submissions provide an excellent resource for those seeking a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges.*

[https://www.aibc.com.au/dreamcms/app/webroot/files/files/2016%20IA-BPG%20Submissions%20towards%20the%20IA-CEPA-FINAL%20\[complete\].pdf](https://www.aibc.com.au/dreamcms/app/webroot/files/files/2016%20IA-BPG%20Submissions%20towards%20the%20IA-CEPA-FINAL%20[complete].pdf)

<http://www.aibc.com.au/dreamcms/app/webroot/files/files/2016%20AIBC%20IA-CEPA%20first%20submission.pdf>

Finally attendance of the Northern Territory Australia Indonesia Business Council delegation and the experience gained through this event has strengthened the resolve of members to increase the activities of the NT Branch which have been in recess for a while.

We are looking forward to attendance at the reciprocal event organised by the Indonesia Australia Business Council and Austrade in March 2017.

Terry Mills MLA

December 2016.



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