

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Business and Innovation:

Indonesia Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership

1. How is Department of Trade, Business and Innovation and this Labor Government capitalising on the historic Free Trade Agreement with Indonesia signed by the Federal Coalition Government? Is there a plan and budget to maximise this unprecedented opportunity for the Territory?

2. Please provide the plan if one exists.

The Northern Territory Government has welcomed the signing of the Indonesia Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (the Agreement). The Agreement provides greater certainty of market access for Territory goods and reduces tariffs. Once ratified by the Australian and Indonesian Parliaments, the Agreement will create an opportunity for closer economic engagement and will open new markets and opportunities for businesses, primary producers, service providers and investors.

Indonesia is a priority market for the Territory and is our third largest export destination, behind Japan and China.

The two Territory industry sectors set to receive the greatest benefit through this partnership are agriculture and international education; both are growth sectors identified in the Economic Development Framework.

Indonesia is the Territory's largest live cattle export market, with 324 856 head of cattle through the Port of Darwin to the end of December 2018, up by 79 312 head (32%) for the same period in 2017.

Education is Australia's key services export to Indonesia, valued at \$802 million with more than 15 000 Indonesians currently studying in Australia. Around 5% of international students studying in the Territory are from Indonesia.

The Territory is seeking to diversify its trade with Indonesia. There are multiple opportunities in areas including but not limited to: agribusiness, ICT, finance, minerals and energy, supply and services, higher education, competency-based vocational education, migration, tourism, health, arts and culture, sport, capacity building and governance training.

Northern Territory Indonesia Strategy

As the Territory has a long-standing and close relationship with Indonesia, existing high-level strategies and frameworks continue to guide the Territory's political, economic and cultural relationships with Indonesia - including the pursuit of new opportunities created by this Agreement. These documents include the International Engagement, Trade and Investment Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and industry specific plans such as the International education and training strategy 2019 to 2025. The Strategic Plan is attached and can be found at <https://business.nt.gov.au/publications/strategies/international-engagement-trade-and-investment-strategic-plan-2018-2021>.

Further, the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation is working with government, community and business groups to develop a specific Northern Territory-Indonesia Strategy, which will guide the Territory's future relationship with Indonesia.

Business engagement

The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, in partnership with Austrade and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will continue to raise awareness and provide information to Territory businesses about the Agreement in preparation for its anticipated ratification. This includes regional export and export readiness information sessions during August 2019, and information sessions specifically on doing business in Indonesia to be held during October Business Month.