

CHINA-AUSTRALIA

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Signature and Tabling

On 17 June 2015, in the presence of the Australian Prime Minister the Hon Tony Abbott MP, the Australian Trade and Investment Minister, Mr Andrew Robb AO MP, and the Chinese Commerce Minister, Mr Gao Hucheng, signed the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) in Canberra.

The same day, Minister Robb, tabled ChAFTA in the Australian Parliament.

Domestic Treaty-Making Processes

Before ChAFTA's entry into force, both Australia and China must complete their domestic treaty-making processes.

Next steps in Australia's processes:

- The [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties \(JSCOT\)](#) is conducting a public inquiry into ChAFTA and will table its report in Parliament, expected in the week beginning 19 October 2015. More information about this inquiry, including hearing dates and guidelines for public submissions, is available at the Committee's [website](#).
- After the JSCOT report is tabled, Parliament will consider amendments to relevant legislation, and relevant regulations would also be amended in due course.

More information on Australia's treaty-making processes is available [here](#).

Entry into force

When Australia and China have completed their domestic processes, both countries will exchange diplomatic notes to certify that they are ready for ChAFTA to enter into force.

ChAFTA will then enter into force 30 days after this exchange, or on a date otherwise agreed.

Senate References Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Separately, the Senate References Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, has established an [inquiry](#) into ChAFTA, to report within one month of JSCOT. More information about this inquiry, including hearing dates and guidelines for public submissions, is available at the Committee's [website](#).