

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 11/06/2024

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade

Title	Reference
<i>Free Trade Agreements: Mandate for Negotiations with the United Arab Emirates and Revised Mandate for Negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0139
<i>Aide Memoire – Mandate for FTA negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, and revised mandate for the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA: Changes to Cabinet paper following Ministerial Consultations</i>	
<i>Mandate for FTA negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, and revised mandate for the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA</i>	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(e)(vi) to avoid damage to the New Zealand economy by the premature disclosure of decisions relating to entering into of overseas trade agreements; and,
- 9(2)(ba)(i): to protect the supply of confidential information by another party



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Free Trade Agreements: Mandate for Negotiations with the United Arab Emirates and Revised Mandate for Negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council

Portfolio Trade

On 29 April 2024, Cabinet:

NZ-UAE CEPA process

- 1 **noted** that:
 - 1.1 in June 2023, the previous government agreed to launch exploratory discussions with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a possible Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) [DEV-23-MIN-0118];
 - 1.2 after four rounds of discussions, the exploratory process has concluded with officials from both sides recommending a launch of negotiations as soon as possible;
- 2 **noted** that the exploratory process and recent engagement with the UAE Minister of State for Trade underline that there are good prospects for ^{s6(a)} of a high quality agreement to support the Government's trade and economic agenda;
- 3 **agreed** that New Zealand launch NZ-UAE CEPA negotiations, ^{s6(a)}
- 4 **agreed** that the detailed mandate parameters outlined in Annex One to the paper under CAB-24-SUB-0139 (Annex One) will guide New Zealand officials in the initial phase of the negotiation;
- 5 **agreed** that if the UAE raises issues for negotiation not covered in this mandate, officials will be guided by current policy settings where such issues are non-contentious and covered by existing New Zealand trade agreements;
- 6 **agreed** that delegated Ministers (the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Trade, Minister of Finance, Minister for Regulation, and other relevant portfolio Ministers) can approve the details of New Zealand's market access offers on tariff elimination, services, investment, temporary entry of business people, and government procurement, provided they are consistent with the high-level direction in Annex One;

- 7 **noted** that officials will provide Ministers with regular updates on progress in the negotiations, including possible implementation costs, as the outlines of possible agreement become clearer;
- 8 **agreed** that at the conclusion of negotiations, agencies will identify the full costs of implementation, and that these costs will be met through departmental baselines, apart from in exceptional circumstances;

NZ-GCC FTA negotiations

- 9 **noted** that:
- 9.1 since Cabinet agreed to resume negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in January 2022 [CBC-22-MIN-0001], New Zealand and the GCC have held five rounds of negotiations;
- 9.2 significant movement is still required from the GCC to improve the quality of its goods market access offer, particularly at entry into force and early tariff elimination;
- 10 s6(a)
- 11 **agreed** that the revised mandate parameters outlined in Annex Two to the paper under CAB-24-SUB-0139 (Annex Two) will guide New Zealand officials as they explore options for conclusion;
- 12 **agreed** that officials will consult delegated Ministers to confirm that the thresholds contained in Annex Two are adequately met and negotiations substantively concluded;
- 13 **agreed** that officials will then return to Cabinet for a decision on whether to sign the NZ-GCC FTA.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Aide Memoire — Mandate for FTA negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, and revised mandate for the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA: Changes to Cabinet paper following Ministerial Consultations

1. Three changes have been made to the Cabinet paper “Mandate for FTA negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, and revised mandate for the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA” following circulation for Ministerial consultations on 10 April.
2. These changes are follows:
 - 2.1. **Para 46** (page 8):
 - 2.1.1. Update to original paragraph 46 to reflect the receipt of two additional submissions.
 - 2.2. **New Recommendation 8** (page 10), reflecting feedback from Minister of Finance:
 - 2.2.1. “**agree** that at the conclusion of negotiations, agencies will identify the full costs of implementation and that these costs will be met through departmental baselines, apart from in exceptional circumstances”.
 - 2.3. **Annex Three** (pages 21-23): inclusion of detailed submissions from New Zealand International Business Forum (NZIBF) and Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ):
 - 2.3.1. See paragraphs 1, 1.1, and 1.5-1.6 of Annex Three.

~~RESTRICTED~~

Office of the Minister for Trade

Cabinet Office

Mandate for FTA negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, and revised mandate for the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA

Proposal

1. That Cabinet approve a mandate for negotiations on a New Zealand-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (NZ-UAE CEPA), and a revised mandate for the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council free trade agreement (NZ-GCC FTA) to allow officials to explore options for conclusion.

Relation to government priorities

2. A NZ-UAE CEPA and a NZ-GCC FTA would contribute to several Government priorities, most notably to lift New Zealand's productivity and economic growth to increase opportunities, employment and incomes for New Zealanders, including through prioritising the negotiation of free trade agreements and creating new pathways for New Zealand exporters to sell their products and services under the Government's export double strategy.

Executive Summary

3. The Gulf region is an important destination for New Zealand exports. In 2023, New Zealand exported \$2.5 billion in goods and services to the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)¹, representing 2.6% of our total exports globally – making it our 7th-largest export destination, taken as bloc. Exports have increased strongly in recent years, up 22% since 2019, outpacing New Zealand's overall export increase (+9% over the same period). Exports to the UAE constituted \$1 billion of this, representing 1.1% of New Zealand's global exports. Top New Zealand exports to the UAE are dairy, engines/vehicle parts, iron and steel, meat and apples.
4. The Gulf is also a critical missing piece in our overall FTA coverage, alongside the United States and India. In 2023, just over 70% of New Zealand's exports went to FTA partners (including the EU).² An FTA with the GCC would increase this to just over 72.5%, or a CEPA with the UAE alone to just over 71%.
5. An FTA with the GCC was substantively concluded in 2009, but never signed ^{s6(a)}

FTA negotiations with the GCC resumed in March 2022.

s6(a)

s6(e)(iv)

6. s6(e)(iv)

¹ The GCC comprises of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

² This was down from 72% in the year to June 2023, largely due to a drop in New Zealand's exports to China.

s6(e)(iv)

7. Meanwhile, the UAE, s6(a)
has embarked on its own separate pursuit of bilateral CEPAs. It has proposed that New Zealand be one of its bilateral CEPA partners. Cabinet agreed to launch exploratory discussions towards a possible CEPA in June 2023 [CAB-23-MIN-0258]. Officials have recently concluded this process, s6(e)(iv)

Background (NZ-UAE CEPA)

8. s6(e)(iv)

Cabinet agreed to launch exploratory discussions with the UAE on a possible CEPA.

9. s6(a)

A NZ-UAE CEPA would bring immediate commercial benefits to New Zealand, further strengthen our s6(a) relationship in the Middle East, and assist our trade diversification objectives.

10. s6(e)(iv)

s6(a)

s6(e)(iv)

11. The UAE's record demonstrates that it can move quickly in practice, with 12 CEPAs concluded in less than three years, of which five are already in force⁴. The UAE has active negotiations in train with a further 10 partners, notably including Australia and Chile. s6(a)

12. s6(a)

³ Other active GCC FTA partners include the UK and China, with South Korea having just completed its negotiations with the GCC.

⁴ CEPAs in force are with India, Israel, Indonesia, Turkey, and Cambodia. A further seven are expected to enter into force soon: with Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kenya, Korea, and Mauritius.

13. s6(e)(iv)

14. s6(a)

15. With the exploratory discussions now concluded, and having indicated that there are strong prospects for a successful negotiation, I recommend that Cabinet agree to launch negotiations and approve a mandate for the UAE as set out below. While there will be challenges as in every negotiation, ^{s6(e)(iv)} I am confident that we have a good opportunity to ^{s6(a)} conclude a high-quality agreement with the UAE that will contribute meaningfully to the government's trade and economic agenda.

NZ-UAE CEPA: Approach to a Mandate

16. Annex One proposes detailed parameters for New Zealand's mandate, informed by:

16.1. the four rounds of exploratory discussions between officials since late 2023, and my engagements with the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade;

16.2. the UAE's current trade policy approach demonstrated by the dozen CEPAs it has concluded since 2022; and

16.3. s6(a)

17. This mandate will necessarily require adjustment because it is not possible to fully anticipate all sensitivities that may arise during negotiations. ^{s6(e)(iv)}

18. s6(e)(iv)

19. As negotiations progress, officials will continue to update Ministers on key developments and to seek specific new mandates from Cabinet or delegated Ministers as required.

Likely key issues in the UAE-NZ CEPA negotiations

20. s6(e)(iv)

s6(e)(iv)

21. New Zealand has been very clear that it would expect tariff elimination on all products of New Zealand trade interest in a NZ-UAE CEPA s6(e)(iv)

22. During exploratory discussions, s6(a) **services trade.**
This is an increasingly important contributor to its gross domestic product s6(e)(iv)
While New Zealand's current practice, and that in contemporary high-quality FTAs, is to schedule services and investment commitments on a 'negative list' basis (in which all sectors are committed unless listed as excluded), s6(e)(iv) s6(e)(iv)
market access commitments using the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) 'positive list' approach (listing only those sectors that are committed). s6(e)(iv)

23. Many of the UAE's recent CEPAs include separate annexes on Movement of Natural Persons, Financial Services, and Telecommunications. s6(e)(iv)

24. The UAE's approach to **investment** s6(e)(iv)

25. s6(e)(iv)

Officials will maintain New Zealand's opposition to ISDS throughout the negotiation, underlining it is a red line for New Zealand, s6(e)(iv)

26. s6(e)(iv)

s6(e)(iv)

27. Indications to date are that the UAE and New Zealand will be able to find areas of mutual agreement on **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)** and **Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)**. In both areas, New Zealand and the UAE have a good track record of working together to resolve issues, and there are already a number of arrangements in place bilaterally, including SPS Memorandums of Understanding recognising New Zealand's food regulatory system and providing facilitated access for animal products, plant products, processed foods, feeds and animal by-products to the UAE. TBT provisions would look to reaffirm parties' existing obligations under the WTO TBT Agreement, establish bilateral contact points to facilitate further cooperation and explore matters of shared interest. s6(e)(iv)
28. The UAE is fully aware of New Zealand's non-negotiable **Treaty of Waitangi clause** which enables the Government to take measures to meet its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. s6(e)(iv)
29. During the exploratory process, officials canvassed a **Māori Trade and Economic Cooperation** chapter, including with reference to recent outcomes (NZ-UK and NZ-EU FTAs), s6(e)(iv)
30. Consistent with New Zealand's trade policy approach since 2001, officials will seek the inclusion of a **Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD)** chapter, covering environment, climate, gender and labour. s6(e)(iv)
31. s6(e)(iv)

Background (NZ-GCC FTA)

32. Separately, the resumed GCC negotiations are proceeding on the basis of the previously agreed 2009 text, with only goods market access and labour and environment s6(e)(iv) open for discussion, as per Cabinet decision CBC-22-MIN-0001.
33. The GCC's latest **goods market access** offer, s6(e)(iv)

s6(e)(iv)

34. s6(e)(iv)

From New Zealand's perspective, we have maintained clear and consistent messaging since the negotiation was re-launched, emphasising the need for a high-quality goods market access outcome, close to that agreed in 2009, in order to conclude the FTA.

35. s6(e)(iv)

36. **Environment and labour** s6(e)(iv)

37. s6(e)(iv)

Options to conclude the negotiations

38. Given the state of the negotiations described above, New Zealand essentially has two options:

38.1. s6(e)(iv)

s6(e)(iv)

s6(e)(iv)

38.2.

39. s6(e)(iv)

40.

NZ-GCC FTA: a revised mandate to bring negotiations to conclusion

41. A revised mandate is sought to enable New Zealand officials to seek to conclude the negotiation this year:

Goods market access

42. s6(e)(iv)

43.

Trade and Sustainable Development

44. s6(e)(iv)

Government procurement and investment

45. s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Public consultation

46. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade has to date received 13 submissions regarding a potential CEPA with the UAE. 12 of the submissions were supportive, citing opportunities to increase trade with the UAE through removing tariffs or locking in current duty-free trade and/or duty exemptions, and reducing non-tariff barriers. There is support for a CEPA as a 'gateway' to increased trade with the Gulf region and towards an eventual GCC-FTA. One submission highlighted s6(e)(iv)

Targeted consultations on the UAE and GCC FTA negotiations are ongoing. A summary of the submissions received is appended as Annex Three.

Cost-of-living Implications

47. Free trade agreements with the GCC and UAE can be expected to increase opportunities and prosperity for New Zealanders by contributing to New Zealand's productivity and economic growth and creating new pathways for exporters to sell their products and services.

Financial Implications

48. Free trade agreement negotiations with the UAE and GCC will have fiscal implications. The overall fiscal costs to the government are not clear at this stage but are likely to comprise the following components:
- 48.1. Costs associated with the negotiations including preparatory work, research, travel, public engagement and the cost of hosting rounds. The costs will be met from departmental baselines, including through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade-operated Trade Negotiations Fund.
 - 48.2. Depending on the outcomes of any free trade agreement, there may be costs associated with implementation. The magnitude of possible implementation costs are unknown at this stage; however officials will work to limit any commitments that extend beyond existing policy and practices.
 - 48.3. A NZ-UAE CEPA, and/or a NZ-GCC FTA, would reduce New Zealand's existing tariff revenue due to the elimination of tariffs on imports from these countries. New Zealand collected \$1.7 million in tariff revenue from the United Arab Emirates in 2022, and a further \$0.3 million from the remaining GCC members (\$2 million in total, representing around 1% of New Zealand's tariff revenue in 2022), meaning tariff revenue foregone would constitute only a very small reduction in overall Crown revenue.
49. Officials will provide more information to Cabinet on these costs as they become clearer throughout the course of the negotiations and consult agencies as part of this process. Requests from Cabinet for additional funding that cannot be met through baselines would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Legislative Implications

50. There are no legislative implications directly resulting from this paper, however the conclusion of an agreement would require legislative changes, including to the Tariff Act,

to incorporate the FTAs and any agreed preferential tariff rates for imports from either the GCC or UAE. Ministers will be updated if other required changes become apparent.

Impact Analysis

51. Not required at this stage. An extended National Interest Analysis (incorporating a Regulatory Impact Analysis) will be presented to Cabinet when negotiations have concluded, and agreement is submitted for approval for signature.

Population Implications

52. A focus for New Zealand will be to ensure that the outcomes of the agreement benefit all segments of society in accordance with the Government's priority of lifting productivity and economic growth to increase opportunities and prosperity for all New Zealanders. This will be achieved in part through the inclusion of a chapter specifically addressing issues facing small and medium enterprises. As noted above, New Zealand will include its Treaty of Waitangi clause which enables the Government to adopt domestic policies in fulfilment of obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. Officials will reiterate that acceptance of this clause is crucial for New Zealand.

Human Rights

53. There are no inconsistencies with the Human Rights Act 1993 and New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

Consultation

54. The following departments have been consulted in the preparation of this paper: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; Ministry for Primary Industries; New Zealand Customs; Ministry of Transport; Te Puni Kōkiri; Ministry for the Environment; New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and The Treasury. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has also been consulted on this paper.

Communications

55. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has commenced domestic public engagement on these negotiations to ensure that New Zealanders have the opportunity to engage on issues of interest. As part of this, the Government has called for public submissions (see paragraph 46), which will remain open through the negotiation process, and prepared updated website materials and FAQs.
56. Key objectives of the engagement are to ensure that New Zealanders have ready access to information regarding the issues under negotiation, and that the views of interested New Zealanders are understood and considered in developing New Zealand's negotiating position.

Proactive Release

57. This paper will be proactively released, subject to necessary redactions to protect New Zealand's negotiating position.

Recommendations

The Minister for Trade recommends that Cabinet:

in relation to the NZ-UAE CEPA process:

- 1 **note** that Cabinet agreed to launch exploratory discussions with the UAE on a possible Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in June 2023 [CAB-23-MIN-0258], and that after four rounds of discussions, the exploratory process has concluded with officials from both sides recommending a launch of negotiations as soon as possible;
- 2 **note** that the exploratory process and recent engagement with the UAE Minister of State for Trade underline that there are good prospects for the ^{s6(e)(iv)} negotiation of a high-quality agreement to support the government's trade and economic agenda;
- 3 **agree** that New Zealand launch NZ-UAE CEPA negotiations, and aim for swift progress;
- 4 **agree** that the detailed mandate parameters outlined in Annex One guide New Zealand officials in the initial phase of the negotiation;
- 5 s6(e)(iv)
- 6 s6(e)(iv)
- 7 **note** that officials will provide Ministers with regular updates on progress in the negotiations, including possible implementation costs, as the outlines of possible agreement become clearer.
- 8 **agree** that at the conclusion of negotiations, agencies will identify the full costs of implementation and that these costs will be met through departmental baselines, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

in relation to the NZ-GCC FTA negotiations:

- 9 **note** that since Cabinet agreed to resume negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in January 2022 [CBC-22-MIN-0001], New Zealand and the GCC have held five rounds of negotiations, ^{s6(e)(iv)}
- 10 s6(e)(iv)
- 11 **agree** that the revised mandate parameters in Annex Two guide New Zealand officials as they explore options for conclusion;
- 12 s6(e)(iv)
- 13 **agree** that officials will then return to Cabinet for a decision on whether to sign the FTA.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Trade

Annex One: NZ-UAE CEPA: Detailed initial mandate recommendations

Chapter	New Zealand Initial Negotiating Objectives
----------------	---

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

Annex Two: NZ-GCC FTA: Revised mandate to explore options for conclusion

Chapter	New Zealand Initial Negotiating Objectives
----------------	---

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade

Annex Three: Record of Public Submissions and Stakeholder Engagements

I. NZ-UAE CEPA process

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade has to date received 13 submissions regarding a potential CEPA with the UAE. Of these, 12 are supportive, while one highlighted strong concern with a possible trade agreement, citing ^{s6(e)(iv)} Further submissions are expected in due course.

Submissions of support from peak bodies and major exporters (7)

1. We received public submissions of support from ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)}
 - 1.1. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} expressed support for the CEPA as a ‘**gateway**’ or ‘**springboard**’ to increased trade with the Gulf region and an FTA with the GCC.
 - 1.2. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} stressed the value in **continuing to pursue negotiations with the GCC** in addition to the UAE CEPA process, ^{s6(e)(iv)}
 - 1.3. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} noted they would benefit from the **removal of 5% tariffs**, and ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} noting the significant competitive advantage that a CEPA would bring; and
 - 1.4. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} noted they would benefit from the long-term **commercial certainty** of duty-free trade. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} are currently subject to a 0% applied tariff; ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)}
 - 1.5. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} called for **trade facilitation and rules of origin** negotiations to consider ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} and for establishing a framework for bilateral consultations and engagement on **non-tariff barriers (NTBs)**.
 - 1.6. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} called for the negotiating agenda to encompass “**all issues of relevance to both sides**”, including market access, investment, digital and paperless trade, and “inclusive trade” issues such as labour and environment.
2. **Non-tariff barriers** impacting trade with the UAE were also raised, including:
 - 2.1. ^{s6(e)(iv)}

2.2. **Customs** - ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} highlighted the need for simple, clear certification processes that leverage existing documentation, cater to business methodologies and systems, and support modern customs risk assessment and management processes. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} requested officials consider document digitisation in negotiations, noting that the UAE currently requires shipping and export documentation to be wet signed and stamped by ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} and UAE officials.

Submission expressing strong concern (1)

3. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} registered “strong concern” about a possible free trade agreement, ^{s6(a)} If the negotiations proceed, ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} called for, *inter alia*, any agreement to contain binding and enforceable labour provisions ^{s6(a)} with application of dispute settlement, and set out key provisions it would want to be included. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i)} further called for any CEPA to not include Investor-State Dispute Settlement, and that any digital trade provisions not constrain the government’s ability to regulate data collection or new and evolving technologies. It also called for the participation of social partners to be provided for during negotiation, implementation and monitoring of an agreement; and that an analysis of the costs and benefits of any agreement be made public for consultation.

Other submissions of support (3)

4. Officials categorised the three remaining submissions from smaller businesses/advocacy groups as supportive of NZ-UAE CEPA negotiations. One requested the removal of 5% tariffs from the export of ghee. Another noted that CEPA may have indirect positive impacts on New Zealand’s trade relationships with Israel and other countries in the Middle East. The third noted the opportunity for growth with the UAE and requested that the Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR) for exporting live goats to the UAE be prioritised, to enable export opportunities from New Zealand to be realised.

Treaty partner representative groups

5. Officials have approached Treaty partner representative groups - Ngā Toki Whakarururanga, Te Taumata and the Federation of Māori Authorities (FOMA) – to seek input into the process. While they have not yet been able to provide formal submissions, initial feedback to date from Ngā Toki Whakarururanga and Ngahiwi Tomoana noted existing cultural links between Māori and the UAE through the inaugural Te Aratini Festival at Dubai Expo 2020. Ngā Toki Whakarururanga indicated concern that a negotiation with the UAE not proceed at such pace that there was insufficient time for meaningful engagement with Treaty partners. ^{s6(e)(iv)}

II. NZ-GCC FTA Engagement

1. MFAT has undertaken targeted consultations with stakeholders and Treaty partners on the resumed GCC negotiations. Business stakeholders are strongly supportive of concluding the FTA, particularly given their rapidly expanding export interests in Saudi Arabia. ^{s6(e)(iv)}
2. ^{s6(e)(iv)}

s6(e)(iv)

Proactively Released
by the Minister for Trade