

CPTPP | Consultation on Uruguay's Accession Process

New Zealand is a founding member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) free trade agreement. Signed in 2018, CPTPP originally comprised 11 economies: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Viet Nam, with the UK joining in 2023. Accession negotiations with Costa Rica reached substantial conclusion on 6 May 2026, with the accession expected to enter into force mid-2027.

The Agreement is open to accession requests from economies that are ready to meet the high standards of the Agreement and can demonstrate a pattern of complying with their trade commitments, so that the benefits to the CPTPP membership can continue to grow through the accession process.

Negotiations with prospective new members focus on ensuring that they align with the high standard rules agreed by existing CPTPP members, and commitments they make on market access for goods, services, investment, government procurement and temporary entry for businesspersons are of the highest quality.

What is included in this consultation?

CPTPP is at the forefront of trading agreements, and a number of economies have expressed interest in acceding. Uruguay submitted its request to join CPTPP on 30 November 2022 and after demonstrating an ability to meet the high standards, the members announced a consensus decision to establish an accession working group with Uruguay at the 2025 Commission.

New Zealand has opened a public consultation process from June 2026 – October 2026 via the MFAT website and will also host a virtual stakeholder engagement session to help inform its approach to this accession process.

This consultation provides an opportunity for New Zealanders to share their views on Uruguay acceding to this important free trade agreement, as well as to highlight the opportunities and issues they see arising from accession. This will support New Zealand to identify priority areas, both in terms of accession candidates and aspects of the Agreement.

Consultation Questions

To help us understand stakeholders' views on the impacts of Uruguay joining the CPTPP and the market access opportunities we seek your views on the following questions and any other comments. Please submit responses through the [survey](#).

- 1) What are the most important areas for New Zealand when considering the accession of other economies to CPTPP?
- 2) What are the specific barriers to trade and investment with Uruguay that you would want to see addressed during its accession process to CPTPP?

Next steps

Your feedback will inform our approach to Uruguay's accession process.

MFAT will collate comments and views from the online survey, the stakeholder engagement sessions and meetings. A summary of the feedback will be published on the [CPTPP – Have your say](#) webpage.

There will be further opportunities for New Zealanders to comment on areas of interest specific to future accession candidates following the start of negotiations with them. This will occur following any decision by the CPTPP Commission to launch an accession working group for that aspirant.