



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

MAY 2026

Costa Rica's Accession Process to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

**Summary of feedback received during
New Zealand's Public Consultation**



Background

CPTPP is the world's leading open plurilateral free trade agreement and growing its membership offers the Parties an opportunity to open markets, continue developing and modernising trade relationships and reinforce global rules-based trade.

In 2024, during Canada's chairing year of CPTPP, the CPTPP Commission made a decision via consensus to establish an Accession Working Group (AWG) for Costa Rica. Peru is the Chair of Costa Rica's Working Group. New Zealand and Canada are acting Vice-Chairs.

Officials sought feedback from New Zealand public and stakeholders to inform our approach to the Costa Rican accession process. A public survey consultation was held in the first quarter of 2025. Officials also sought views from stakeholders during ongoing stakeholder engagement sessions throughout 2026.

Results of the consultation

We received two submissions from the public via the online survey and a number of suggestions and comments from the virtual stakeholder sessions. We seek to summarise these views below.

Market Access

Business and industry stakeholders were of the strong view that Costa Rica's market access offers must be of the highest level preserving the quality of the agreement and setting a strong precedent for any future accession. For New Zealand, market access for dairy was particularly important.

Tourism

One submitter flagged increasing diplomatic presence and formalising regular communications with the view of boosting tourism both ways. Another submitter added that a visa waiver programme could also contribute to strengthening the relationship and contributing to New Zealand and Costa Rica's tourism sectors.

ISDS

At least one stakeholder noted New Zealand's opposition to Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) in trade negotiations, emphasising the importance of preserving its right to regulate in the public interest. A submitter requested that New Zealand seek an arrangement with Costa Rica that reflects this position, including acknowledgement that ISDS should not be considered as part of any trade agreement to that New Zealand is party to.

Next Steps

Since the announcement, the Parties have been working with Costa Rica at all levels to assess Costa Rica's compliance with CPTPP's high standards and ensuring Costa Rica is acceding on the basis of sufficiently ambitious market access offers.

As per the 2025 CPTPP Joint Ministerial Statement on the occasion of the ninth commission, Parties acknowledged substantial progress on the ongoing discussions for Costa Rica's accession process. Officials were instructed to continue discussions expeditiously aiming to conclude the accession process in a timely manner by the end of 2026.

We continue to welcome feedback from stakeholders and the public on the Costa Rica accession to CPTPP. Submissions can be sent to the CPTPP@mfat.govt.nz address.