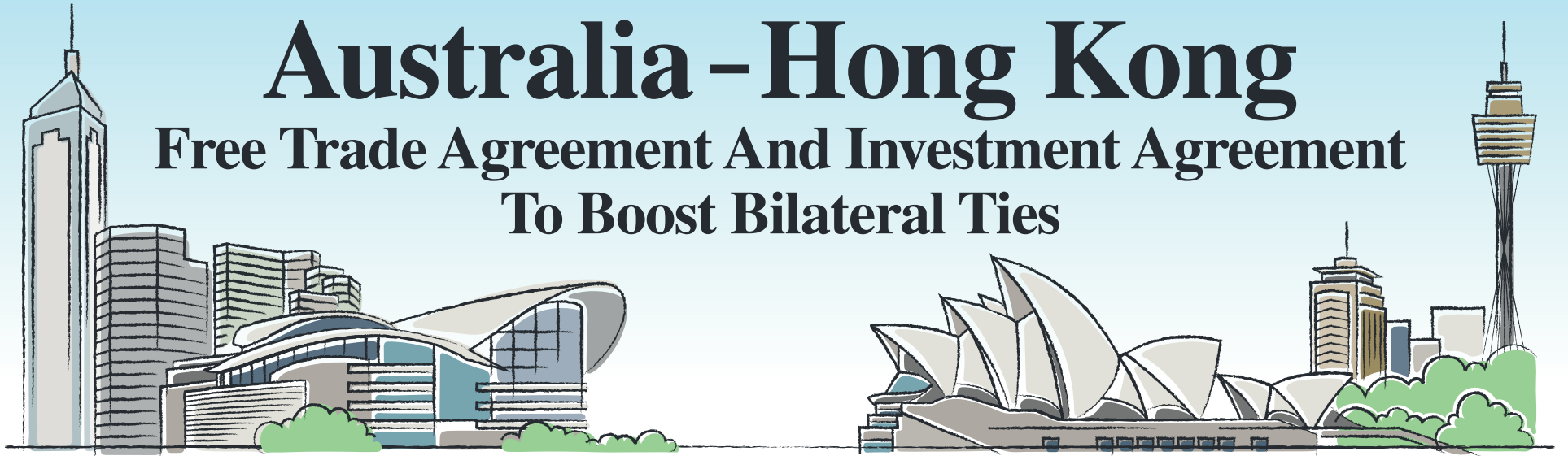


# Australia - Hong Kong

## Free Trade Agreement And Investment Agreement To Boost Bilateral Ties



### A New Chapter

Australia and Hong Kong signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and an Investment Agreement on March 26, setting the stage for a new chapter in bilateral relations.



### Australia-Hong Kong FTA & Investment Agreement:

#### What they mean for Australian Business

- Certainty for duty-free entry for Australian goods;
- Open market settings for Australian service suppliers guaranteed;
- WTO-plus commitments in respect of access to Hong Kong's market and treatment no less favourable than local service providers;
- Protection and preferential treatments for both sides' investors and their investments;
- Access to an independent arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes by investors from Australia and Hong Kong through the Investor-Party Dispute Settlement (IPDS) mechanism under the Investment Agreement; and
- Facilitated business travel.

#### Advantages for Australian financial services sector

- Market access for Australian insurance and banking service providers guaranteed;
- Market access for Australian providers of new financial services, including fintech; and
- Commitment to allow the supply of electronic payment services for cross-border transactions.



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau (left), and the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Mr Simon Birmingham (right), signed the Australia-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement in Sydney on March 26.

“ Hong Kong and Australia, both staunch advocates of free trade, have sealed two high quality deals. The commitments we made to each other far exceed our World Trade Organization commitments, thereby enabling our goods, services and investments to enter each other's market under more preferential terms. ”

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau



“ Hong Kong is Australia's largest commercial base in Asia, our fifth largest source of investment, and a platform market to showcase Australia's premium goods and services. The Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement provide market access guarantees and greater regulatory certainty for businesses, which will further strengthen our deep trading and investment relationship. ”

Australia's Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau, Ms Michaela Browning



“ As a global wine company, Hong Kong is an important part of the Treasury Wine Estates (TWE) business in Asia. For many years, TWE has benefited from strong trade relations between Australia and Hong Kong SAR, and our business success has been supported by the FTAs that make Hong Kong an attractive market for the wine industry. We welcome further economic ties between Australia and Hong Kong that enable us to further capture the market opportunities Hong Kong has to offer. ”

Regional Business Manager Hong Kong & Macau, Treasury Wine Estates, Mr Andrew Walsh

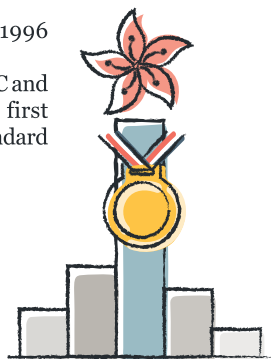


“ ANZ welcomes the signing of the Australia-Hong Kong FTA. With Hong Kong's key role in facilitating China's trade and capital flow, a comprehensive agreement with Hong Kong would complement Australia's existing FTA with China and add significant value to both Australia and Hong Kong. ”

Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, ANZ, Ms Ivy Au Yeung

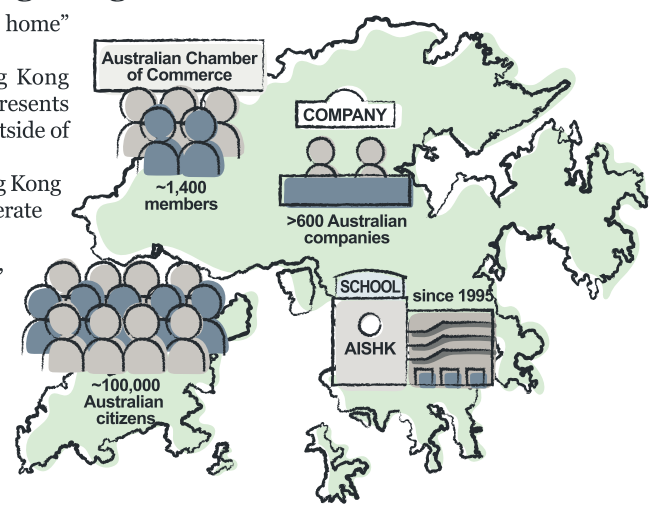
### Hong Kong's business advantages

- Unparalleled links to Mainland China and global markets.
- First-mover advantage to Greater Bay Area business opportunities, with Hong Kong as international bridgehead to a market of 70m with a combined GDP the same as Australia.
- World's Freest Economy for past 25 years (US-based Heritage Foundation).
- World No.1 for economic freedom since 1996 (Canada-based Fraser Institute).
- World's most business-friendly tax system (PwC and World Bank Report) - Profits tax 8.25% on first AUS\$360,000 of profits; 16.5% thereafter. Standard salaries tax of 15%.
- One of the world's safest large cities.
- Rule of law and common law system (Australian judges sit on Hong Kong's highest court, the Court of Final Appeal).
- Asia's No.1 and World No.8 for judicial independence (WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2018).



### Well established Australia-Hong Kong links

- Hong Kong is the preferred “home away from home” for Australians in Asia.
- Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AustCham) with about 1,400 members represents the largest Australian business community outside of Australia.
- About 100,000 Australian citizens live in Hong Kong and more than 600 Australian companies operate in the city.
- Australian International School Hong Kong, operating since 1995, provides world-class education for families seeking Australian curriculum.
- Hong Kong was Australia's 12<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner and 7<sup>th</sup> largest for services trade (2017).
- Hong Kong was the 10<sup>th</sup> largest destination for Australian foreign investment abroad (AUS\$47.4 billion) (2017).



### Where to know more?

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#### Brand Hong Kong



#### Trade and Industry Department



#### Investing in HK



#### Trading in HK

