



THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

17 June 2015

Mr Gao Hucheng
Minister of Commerce
The People's Republic of China

Dear Minister Gao,

In connection with the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement") and discussions in relation to Chapter 8 (Trade in Services), I have the honour to confirm the following understanding shared by the Governments of Australia and China to strengthen cooperation in the field of commercial legal services:

Noting the vital role legal services play in facilitating bilateral trade and investment, as well as regional and global trade and investment flows, the Governments of Australia and China shall meet within 12 months of the date of entry into force of the Agreement, or at such other mutually agreed time, with a view to developing measures to enhance and support, through the peak legal professional bodies¹ in each country:

- (a) strengthened cooperation between lawyers registered in Australia and China, including with respect to trade, investment and other cross-border commercial projects;
- (b) increased mobility for Australian and Chinese lawyers, including through temporary entry measures to facilitate professional secondments and exchanges between each country; and
- (c) closer cooperation between commercial law firms from Australia and China in the effective provision of transnational legal services.

I have the honour to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

¹ "Peak legal professional bodies" means for Australia, the Law Council of Australia, and for China, the All China Lawyers Association.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Robb

17 June 2015

The Hon Andrew Robb AO, MP
Minister for Trade and Investment
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Robb,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date, which reads as follows:

In connection with the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (the “Agreement”) and discussions in relation to Chapter 8 (Trade in Services), I have the honour to confirm the following understanding shared by the Governments of Australia and China to strengthen cooperation in the field of commercial legal services:

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- (a) strengthened cooperation between lawyers registered in Australia and China, including with respect to trade, investment and other cross-border commercial projects;
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- (c) closer cooperation between commercial law firms from Australia and China in the effective provision of transnational legal services.

I have the honour to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

I have the further honour to confirm that my Government shares this understanding and that your letter and this letter in reply shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gao Hucheng
Minister of Commerce
The People’s Republic of China

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