



AUSTRALIA'S FTAS SUPPORT OUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INTERESTS AND DO NOT DRIVE DOMESTIC POLICY OUTCOMES

Only one FTA has raised domestic protection of intellectual property (IP) in Australia: AUSFTA. In the **12 years** since the conclusion of AUSFTA, Australia has completed **eight FTAs**, with **28 parties** (covering Australia's six biggest two-way trading partners) – all with **no change to IP protection levels required under Australia's domestic IP laws**.

Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements are collectively pursued, as determined by Government and by what is in Australia's national interest (noting the last multilateral trade agreement covering IP (WTO TRIPS) concluded over two decades ago).

FTAs have supported multilateral IP outcomes, encouraging partner countries to join and enforce multilateral treaties and extending multilateral outcomes to FTA partners.

IP commitments are standard in developed economy FTAs, reflecting the importance of transparent and effective IP settings to international trade and investment.

Australia's record in international IP negotiations (multilateral and bilateral) demonstrates that **Australia has been effective in shaping the international system toward Australia's own domestic policies and interests**.

The long term health of our economy will depend, to a large extent, on how successful we are in continuing to internationalise the Australian economy. Given Australia's cost structures, **developing our knowledge-based and innovation industries will be a central element in ensuring that Australia is able to compete in the global marketplace**.

The focus should be on **positioning Australia to develop its strengths in IP creation, trade and investment**.

Australia is already a **net exporter of IP to non OECD countries** and **international studies indicate the significant contribution IP-related industries make to employment** in Australia. **IP imports** have helped support the development of the mining industry, our biggest exporter.

Australia's international commitments **do not prevent the Government from continuing to tailor domestic IP settings**. For example, the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Act 2012 (the 'Raising the Bar Act') was described by IP Australia as Australia's biggest IP system overhaul in twenty years, and included changes to raise the quality of patents granted.

TPP (11 Parties)	No Change
ChAFTA (China)	No Change
JA-EPA (Japan)	No Change
KAFTA (Korea)	No Change
MAFTA (Malaysia)	No Change
AANZFTA (11 Parties)	No Change
ACIFTA (Chile)	No Change
TAFTA (Thailand)	No Change
AUSFTA (US)	Change
SAFTA (Singapore)	No Change