AUSTRALIA AND IRELAND

Like-minded on the world stage, bonded by historic people-to-people links

Key engagement
Irish investment in Australia (valued at $23.8 billion in 2017); people-to-people links including sport and culture

Outlook
Opportunities in fintech, agribusiness, infrastructure, and renewable energy sectors

Bilateral relations
Australia and Ireland enjoy a strong bilateral relationship, with growing trade and investment and warm people-to-people links (one in ten Australians claim Irish descent).

Relations between Australia and Ireland have been buoyed by recent high-level visits in both directions. An FTA with the European Union (currently under negotiation) will offer new opportunities on entry into force.

Foreign policy
The Australian and Irish Governments maintain policy dialogue on areas of shared interest. Australia and Ireland share many of the same values – respect for democracy and human rights, and a commitment to the rules-based international order.

Ireland became a member of the United Nations (UN) in 1955. Ireland joined the European Communities, now known as the European Union (EU), in 1973 and seeks to coordinate its foreign policy with other EU Member States.

While Ireland’s foreign policy has traditionally focused on the UN and the EU, it is broadening its diplomatic and commercial presence in the Indo-Pacific. We will create new links in the Pacific, with Ireland opening its first embassy in the region in Wellington, New Zealand.

Australia’s foreign policy is guided by the Foreign Policy White Paper.

Foreign Policy White Paper: https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au

FAST FACTS

| Irish visitors to Australia (2017) | 57,000 |
| Australian visitors to Ireland (2017) | 79,800 |
| Resident Australian population born in Ireland (2016 census) | 74,891 |
| Australian residents of Irish descent [2016 census] | 2.39 million |
| Irish students in Australia (2017) | 854 |

High level visits

2018
Australian Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Steven Ciobo MP
President of the Australian Senate Senator the Hon Scott Ryan

2017
Governor-General of Australia General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC
President of Ireland Michael D Higgins
Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP
Australian Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Matthias Cormann
Public diplomacy

The Australian Embassy in Dublin manages a public diplomacy program focused on raising awareness in Ireland of contemporary Australia, including through promotion of our music, film and literature, our premium produce, and through Australian alumni in Ireland.

The Embassy collaborates with private and public sector partners to deliver promotional events, including in the areas of viticulture, sports and digital diplomacy. These events promote Australia as an attractive place to study, work, visit, live and invest. The Embassy continues to build on the momentum of the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations (in 2016) to inform and update Irish views of Australia, as a successful multicultural nation, and dynamic Indo-Pacific economy.

Economic diplomacy

The Irish economy is modern and trade-focused, with an explicit strategy of attracting foreign direct investment in high-tech and services sectors. Ireland’s low rate of corporate tax has seen many multinational companies relocate to Ireland in recent years, particularly in the IT and pharmaceutical sectors.

IDA Ireland partners with potential and existing investors to help them establish or expand their operations in Ireland. Given our shared language, common law system and values, and people-to-people links, Ireland can be a bridge for Australian companies to do business in Europe.

Enterprise Ireland aims to increase Irish exports to the Indo-Pacific by 50 per cent by 2020. With our network of free trade agreements across the region, Australia can be a trusted conduit for Irish companies looking to expand their horizons.

Business

Commercial relations between Australia and Ireland continue to grow, with two-way goods and services trade worth $3.5 billion in 2017.

Irish investment in Australia (as at 2017) was valued at $23.8 billion, including in aerospace, agribusiness, business services and pharmaceuticals. The Australian commercial presence in Ireland covers a wide range of sectors and sizes. High-profile Australian businesses in Ireland include Harvey Norman (with over 1,000 local employees), Macquarie Bank, AMP Capital, Flight Centre, and Woodside. There is also Australian investment valued at $17 billion (as at 2017), focused on business, financial and mining services, ICT and manufacturing. More economic and trade information can be found in the Ireland Country Fact Sheet.

Through events and programs, the Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce provides members with a network, across Australia and in Dublin, to further business opportunities.

Austrade

Austrade’s Ireland Office aims to attract foreign direct investment into Australia, and promotes the Australian education sector. Austrade can provide access to a range of specialists to assist with market entry and expansion.

Travel

See Smartraveller for Information on travelling to Ireland:

http://smartraveller.gov.au