



A U S T R A L I A A N D

Germany

Key engagement

Australia and Germany work closely to advance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

In June 2021, Australia and Germany convened the second 2+2 Ministerial Foreign and Security Policy Consultations to address key security and regional challenges.

The *Enhanced Strategic Partnership* (2021) lifted the bilateral relationship to a new level and committed Australia and Germany to broader strategic alignment and joint support for the multilateral system and its institutions.

Germany's *Indo-Pacific Policy Guidelines* (2020) underpin its growing engagement in our region. As part of this engagement, Australia hosted the German frigate *Bayern* in October 2021 during its six-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific. Germany also participated alongside Australia and other nations in Exercises Pitch Black and Kakadu for the first time in 2022.

Australia and Germany cooperate closely on new initiatives to accelerate the development of a hydrogen industry through the *Australia-Germany Hydrogen Accord* (2021).

Outlook

2022 marks 70 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Germany and we look forward to building on our close cooperation.

Bilateral relations

Australia and Germany have a warm, vibrant and diverse bilateral relationship. Germany is a close and strategic partner for Australia with a common strategic outlook, shared values and a commitment to the rules-based international order, including in the Indo-Pacific. We work together to support multilateralism, human rights, trade liberalisation, shared defence and security objectives, and the international recovery from COVID-19. We work closely in multilateral forums, including the UN and G20.

Foreign policy

Germany contributes actively to international peace and prosperity. Germany is the EU's largest economy and largest contributor to the EU budget. Germany is a strong supporter of multilateralism and fourth-largest contributor to the UN budget. It is a leader in responding to challenges on energy security, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism. NATO is a central pillar of German defence and security policy.



[Germany's Indo-Pacific Guidelines, launched in September 2020](#)

FAST FACTS



German visitors to Australia (year ending June 2022) **22,100**



Australian resident returns from Germany (year ending June 2022) **16,400**



Resident Australian population born in Germany (2021 census) **101,255**



Australian residents of German descent (2021 census) **1,026,138**



German working holiday maker arrivals (year ending 30 June 2022) **2,516**



German students in Australia (January to July 2022) **2,746**

High level engagement

- November 2022 Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the margins of the G20 Leaders Summit in Bali.
- July 2022 Foreign Minister Penny Wong met German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock at the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bali.
- June 2022 Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on the sidelines of the NATO Leaders Summit in Madrid.



Agreements with Germany

Australia has numerous bilateral agreements with Germany, including on social security, double taxation, trade and cultural cooperation.

[Texts of bilateral agreements are available at the Australian Treaties Database.](#)

Public diplomacy

The Australian Embassy in Berlin promotes Australia's export industries, research expertise and innovation, and arts and culture – including our rich Indigenous history and culture – with in-person events and digital diplomacy.

A significant number of Australian artists are based in, or visit, Germany, showcasing expertise in music, performing and visual arts, literature and arts management. The cultural diversity of both countries supports a long history of exchange in culture, arts and sport. The Australian Embassy in Berlin promotes numerous festivals and events in Germany that showcase Australian art and culture. In 2022 this included the landmark exhibition 'Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters' at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin.

Germany is a large source of student enrolments in Australia. Postgraduate studies provide Australian institutions with the greatest opportunities to enter the German market, particularly in the areas of Information Technology, International Law, and International Business and Technology. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Universities Australia signed the Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme in December 2014 to support bilateral research exchanges.

Economic diplomacy

Australia's economic relationship with Germany is substantial. Germany is Australia's 10th largest trade partner, with two-way trade totalling \$22.2 billion in 2020-21. Germany is Australia's fourth largest source of imports, comprising mostly cars, transport services and medicaments.

Australian investment stock in Germany in 2021 totalled \$77.4 billion, while Germany's total investment stock in Australia was valued at \$50 billion. German investment spans automotive and manufacturing, information and communications technology, agri-food, pharmaceuticals, defence, energy and health.

We expect green hydrogen to become an important pillar of the bilateral economic relationship. Australia has all the ingredients needed to become both a major hydrogen producer and a global exporter, and we are placing the highest priority on creating a green hydrogen supply chains with Germany.

Our Hydrogen Accord (2021), was the first agreement of its kind by the German government. It includes a joint HyGATE Initiative, intended to support real-world pilot, trial and demonstration projects along the hydrogen supply chain. The Accord also seeks to build on Germany's H2Global scheme, a mechanism that will support the international market ramp up of green hydrogen exports to Germany.

[More economic and trade information.](#)

Australia continues to seek opportunities to promote Australian business and raise awareness of potential benefits of increased trade and investment between Australia and Europe, including Germany. This work has intensified followed the launch of Australia-EU trade agreement negotiations in June 2018.

[More information about the Australia-EU trade agreement.](#)

Business

There are over 380 German companies employing more than 58,000 people in Australia. Some of the major German companies in Australia include Siemens, Bosch, Fuchs, Carl Zeiss (Advanced manufacturing); SAP Research, Software AG (ICT); Evonik, Fresenius Medical Care (Pharmaceuticals); DB Schenker, DHL, Deutsche Bahn, (Logistics, transport and mobility); Allianz, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, (Banking/insurance); BayWa, Enercon, Innogy, RWE, Senvion (Clean energy); Heidelberg Cement/Hanson Australia, BOC/Linde (Materials); Remondis (Waste Management & Water); BASF, Bayer, CSB Engineering, Dr Oetker, Kaufland, Nordzucker (Food and agriculture); and Luerssen, Rheinmetall, ThyssenKrupp (Defence).

Over 160 Australian companies employing around 17,000 people have a presence in Germany, including Macquarie (Infrastructure); IFM, ANZ (Finance); Transfield (Energy); Adina Apartments (Tourism); CSL Behring, Cochlear, Resmed, SDI, Sonic Healthcare, Grey Innovation (Medical devices); Nufarm (Food and agriculture); Goodman (Logistics); Cohda Wireless, Computershare, Telstra (Digital technologies); Flame Productions, Greencorp Magnetics (Media); and Amcor (Packaging).

[More information on Austrade and doing business in Germany.](#)

Australian Embassy in Berlin



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