

1 June 2023

FTA Coordination Section
Free Trade Agreements and Stakeholder Engagement
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Via email: UAECEPA@dfat.gov.au

RE: Support for an Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

On behalf of Masdar Tribe Australia, I write to express our support for an Australia UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Masdar Tribe Australia is a joint venture between Australian company Tribe Infrastructure Group and the Abu Dhabi Government's renewable energy investment arm, Masdar. Masdar Tribe Australia is focused on developing Energy from Waste (EfW) projects across Australia, diverting waste from landfill, recovering valuable resources and generating baseload renewable energy.

Of significance, Masdar Tribe Australia has developed and own 40 per cent of the East Rockingham EfW Project in Perth, which will commence operations in late 2023 – thus becoming Australia's 1st such facility; a landmark for this country. We are also working with Opal Australian Paper and Veolia on the Maryvale EfW project in the Latrobe Valley in Victoria. In New South Wales, we are leading a consortium shortlisted to develop an EfW in the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. Our projects have been and continue to be afforded broad positive support from the Australian Federal Government and state governments.

Australia and the UAE already enjoy a significant trade relationship, as the UAE stands as one of Australia's largest trading partners in the Middle East. In light of this, we believe it would be highly beneficial to establish a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between our two countries. Such an agreement would serve as a crucial step forward in reinforcing and expanding our trade ties.

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement would provide a solid framework for Australia and the UAE to foster closer economic engagement. It would enable us to explore new markets and opportunities, particularly in the fields of renewable and alternative energy technology development, job creation, and foreign investment. By establishing this agreement, we can facilitate exponential investment and growth between our nations, as we have witnessed following similar agreements between the UAE and other countries with comparable economic size and focus to Australia.

I urge the Australian Government to actively pursue negotiations and finalise an Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. By doing so, we can establish a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership that will contribute to the economic prosperity of both nations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our views through this submission process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Nicholas'.

Ed Nicholas
General Manager
Masdar Tribe Australia