

Key recommendations

Raise awareness

- National Cabinet should consider developing a whole-of-nation plan to strengthen Southeast Asia literacy in Australian business, government, the education and training system, and the community.
- Establish a new Australia – Southeast Asia business facilitation initiative to undertake targeted sectoral business missions and build the capability of business chambers.
- Australian Government to work with states and territories, and business to ensure a coordinated approach to promoting Australia, leveraging and building upon the Nation Brand.
- Australian Government to work with the ASEAN Secretariat and business to examine an ASEAN trade, investment and tourism promotion campaign in Australia.
- Develop a strategy to engage with Australia's Southeast Asian diaspora to inform efforts to deepen SME business links with the region.
- Australian Government to invest in education promotion across Southeast Asia to raise awareness of Australia's offerings and attract more Southeast Asian students.
- Expand tourism promotion and build industry capability to meet Southeast Asian demand.

Remove blockages

- Continue exploring opportunities to reduce regulatory burden under the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB), as the foreign investment framework regime allows, and seek reciprocal action in the region.
- Establish a single-door concierge service to facilitate inward foreign investment.
- Australia's Trade 2040 Taskforce, in collaboration with Southeast Asian partners, to review the scope of existing FTAs to determine priorities for agreement upgrade negotiations.
- Expand collaboration on trade rules and standards harmonisation with Southeast Asian partners.
- Australian Government to implement the Migration Strategy and associated reforms to improve the visa system to facilitate mobility.
- Australian Government to prioritise updates to air services agreements and explore reciprocal open skies agreements with interested Southeast Asian partners where in the national interest.
- Australian and Southeast Asian governments to increase cooperation with professional bodies and education providers on qualifications recognition.

Build capability

- Extend government-to-government technical assistance to other Southeast Asian countries through a new government-to-government partnerships program and other mechanisms.
- Develop a regulatory framework to facilitate intra-regional hybrid training and work mobility programs in high-priority industry sectors.
- Establish a new public and private sector multi-country program to arrange professional exchanges and internships at the company or organisation level.
- Increase whole-of-government trade and industry policy and commercial engagement capability in Australia's Southeast Asia diplomatic missions and in Australia to assist Australian businesses to use FTAs and deliver market access.
- Establish a targeted program to support Australian First Nations businesses to increase trade and investment with the region.
- Australian Government to encourage universities and vocational education providers to offer work-integrated learning internships as part of course offerings to Southeast Asian students.
- Australian Government to coordinate a whole-of-nation initiative to better engage alumni, including a scheme for connecting alumni with Australian and Southeast Asian businesses.

Deepen investment

- Australian Government to establish a strategic investment facility for Southeast Asian infrastructure projects, utilising Export Finance Australia and other government-supported funding sources.
- Establish new investment 'deal teams' for Southeast Asia, blending private sector and Australian Government capabilities to provide outward investment (including financing) services.
- Australian Government to extend Partnerships for Infrastructure and expand into early-stage project preparation support.
- Australian Government to work with industry to fund a Southeast Asia research grants scheme in areas of mutual interest with Southeast Asia.
- Australian Government to consider establishing Austrade Landing Pads in Indonesia and Vietnam to support Australian tech companies, similar to Austrade's Landing Pad in Singapore.