



AUSTRALIA

Australia-Singapore Food Pact Guiding Principles

Singapore-Australia Supply Chains Working Group

Food Pact Guiding Principles

Singapore and Australia enjoy a longstanding friendship underpinned by the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement. We continue to build on this foundation, undertaking innovative collaborations such as the Singapore-Australia Green Economy Agreement and the Singapore-Australia Supply Chains Working Group that reflect and deliver on our shared strategic and economic interests.

We have a long and trusted food partnership. This partnership was strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic amid supply chain disruptions. Despite this, Australian food products continued to reach Singapore. This included Australian chilled and frozen poultry meat supplied under improved import conditions, which has been a catalyst for our continued cooperation. Both governments have supported the trade of high-quality Australian food to and through Singapore and the region. We are now partnering more closely on food safety and innovation to build resilience in our respective food systems.

Singapore and Australia have agreed to establish the Food Pact as a framework to strengthen our food partnership under the Supply Chains Working Group. It is a pragmatic response by both governments to ensure that our food partnership remains resilient in the face of global challenges, such as increased protectionism and challenges to longstanding trading rules, ongoing strains on freight, the redirection and reduction of investment flows and climate change.

Objectives

The Food Pact will have the following objectives:

1. Support our exporters, importers and consumers by increasing the trade of high-quality and reliable food products that are competitively priced and commercially viable.
2. Support Singapore as a transshipment hub for food products.
3. Cooperate on global food security issues, including food innovations and future foods, such as novel foods; technical work on animal diseases and plant pests; and sustainable agriculture and food systems principles.

Guiding Principles

The Food Pact is guided by the following key principles:

1. Considering our commitment to increase cooperation and contribute to the food supply resilience of our countries, to develop solutions that are context-specific and address the needs of each country;
2. Acknowledging that it is in our mutual interest to ensure that trade lines remain open, to avoid adopting restrictive measures including export controls or tariffs and non-tariff barriers with respect to our bilateral food trade;



Australian Government

3. Appreciating the broader impacts of climate change that both our experience and efforts towards achieving net zero emissions, to build sustainable and resilient agri-food systems;
4. Adopting transparent policies and decision-making based on risk and science;
5. Recognising that a favourable investment climate and business environment would foster increased investments and business partnerships, to promote Food Pact initiatives and facilitate engagements between our private sector agri-trade players, based on commercial viability;
6. Affirming our joint commitment to a rules-based trading systems, to adopt collaborative approaches and harmonised principles that enhance the multilateral trading system by adhering to international standards, guidelines and recommendations with regard to trade in food, food animals and their products, where appropriate; and
7. Consulting closely with Australian and Singaporean exporters, importers, manufacturers, innovators, investors, distributors, ground handling service providers, retailers, and consumers to understand pain points, opportunities and how the Food Pact can best meet objectives.

Workstreams

To achieve the objectives of the Food Pact, we will work in the following workstreams.

- **Recognition of systems:** Recognition of Australian inspection systems for protein, including for red meat, to support diversified supply of Australian protein to Singapore. This can be expanded to other food commodities as required.
- **Simplified Transshipment Model:** Establish a pilot transshipment hub, using Singapore as a distribution centre, drawing from Singapore's transport and logistics links with other regions. Both countries will approach this in phases, commencing with a Simplified Transshipment Model (STM) being piloted for red meat, with a potential to expand the model complexity.
- **Technical work on animal diseases:** To advance zoning (regionalisation) arrangements for various animal diseases to minimise trade disruptions.
- **Food innovations and future foods:** Research collaboration between the CSIRO (Australia) and A*STAR (Singapore) via the 5-year A*STAR-CSIRO 2+2 Partnership where Food (Alternative Proteins, Plant Genetics for Urban Food Production) is one of the thematic areas. together with cooperation in regulation of novel foods by the Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Singapore Food Agency.
- **Trade missions, industry consultations and promotion:** Ensure business matching activities are aligned with industry demand and there is a feedback mechanism to capture any potential quick wins for industry.
- **International cooperation:** Building greater collaboration bilaterally and at international forums in promoting agreed principles on sustainable agri-food systems.

Workstreams will report biannually to the Supply Chain Working Group, which in turn will report annually to the Senior Officials Meeting. The Food Pact will not duplicate work under other streams of the Supply Chain Working Group, the Green Economy Agreement, and existing arrangements between Singapore and Australia.

