



## Office of Hon Tim Groser

Minister of Trade

Minister for Climate Change Issues

- 9 SEP 2015

Robert Glennie  
robertglennie@yahoo.co.nz

Dear Robert Glennie

Thank you for your email of 25 July 2015 regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

New Zealand's goal in TPP is to reduce the barriers our exporters face and improve their competitiveness in the Asia-Pacific region. Such an outcome will contribute to our stronger economic performance so that we can generate more jobs and higher incomes for New Zealanders.

A comprehensive agreement will remove barriers to trade for many New Zealand goods exporters. New Zealand service suppliers and investors will also benefit from reduced barriers in the region, while outcomes on government procurement will provide access for suppliers to a number of global markets that are currently closed to New Zealand providers. The potential gains are significant. An independent study, completed by economists connected to the East West Center and the Peterson Institute, estimates a high quality agreement could significantly increase New Zealand's GDP (a US\$2 billion increase in the year 2025) and exports (US\$4.1 billion in 2025) from the lowering of trade barriers and associated regional integration benefits.

In terms of the negotiation process, all TPP countries have agreed to keep the draft text and related documents confidential while the process continues. This approach is consistent with the process followed by New Zealand governments in past free trade agreements (FTAs), such as the negotiation of the China-New Zealand agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been open about the issues under negotiation and has been active in engaging with a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The consultation processes for TPP have been among the most extensive a New Zealand government has undertaken for any trade negotiation. Public comment on TPP was first sought in 2008, with a second invitation issued in 2011 when Canada, Mexico and Japan all expressed interest in joining the negotiation. Negotiators have also met regularly with business groups, local councils, health sector representatives, unions, other NGOs and individuals to seek input on TPP and to help ensure a high quality outcome to negotiations that advances the national interest. Public and stakeholder interest has also been welcomed via the Ministry's dedicated TPP portals ([tpp@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:tpp@mfat.govt.nz) and [www.mfat.govt.nz/tpptalk](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/tpptalk)).

If negotiations can be successfully concluded, I expect the text of the agreement will be made public before it is signed by TPP governments. While this is a departure from past New Zealand practice – in the past most FTA texts have been published at the time of signature – the Government supports this approach for TPP given the public interest in the agreement.

Once the negotiation phase is complete and an agreement is signed, TPP like all FTAs will need to go through the Parliamentary treaty examination process. As part of the treaty examination process the final text of an agreement will be presented to Parliament and referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee for examination. During this time, the public will almost certainly be invited to make submissions as part of the consultation process. The Select Committee considers those submissions and reports back to the House. It may at this time make recommendations regarding ratification of the agreement as presented. After that process, any legislative changes required in order to implement the agreement would go through normal Parliamentary procedures which include select committee scrutiny, public submissions and a series of votes in Parliament. Only once these steps have been completed would a successfully concluded TPP enter into force for New Zealand.

Please see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 'TPP Talk' website ([www.mfat.govt.nz/tpptalk](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/tpptalk)) if you wish to find out more about New Zealand's general approach to key issues under negotiation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Groser', with a small mark to the right.

Tim Groser  
Minister of Trade