



## Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Senator for South Australia

Our Ref: MC18-006729

Cr David O'Loughlin  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
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Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letters of 2 August 2018 to the then Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Steven Ciobo MP, and the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, regarding a resolution on trade supported unanimously by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board. I am responding on behalf of the Australian Government as these issues now fall within my portfolio responsibility.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) call for the Government to protect the role of local government now and in the future under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP-11).

With its membership representing 13.5 per cent of the global economy and with the elimination of 98 per cent of tariffs in the TPP-11 region, this Agreement represents a landmark deal for trade in our region. The Government is working to bring it into force as soon as possible so Australian exporters can begin to take advantage of the material gains contained in the Agreement.

Nothing in the TPP-11 would limit the ability of local councils to enter into a range of strategies and policies such as environmental initiatives, procurement, jobs programs or insourcing. The TPP-11 will complement existing efforts to address issues such as trade-related environmental challenges. I encourage any councils with specific concerns to contact [TPP@dfat.gov.au](mailto:TPP@dfat.gov.au) for further advice.

I welcome the interest of the ALGA in the TPP-11 and note the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has engaged with the ALGA during the negotiations of the original TPP. I look forward to continuing to work with your association as we progress Australia's ambitious trade agenda.

Yours sincerely

**Simon Birmingham**

28 SEP 2018