



**Export Council of Australia**

The Voice for Australia's Exporters

## The Export Council's Response to Turnbull's Trade Policy Statement

Friday 20 May, 2016

The Export Council of Australia (ECA) welcomes the Coalition's Trade and Investment Policy, and the positive response we believe it will receive, although the ECA believe that more funding and commitment will ultimately be required for Australian businesses to reach their full potential.

Chief Executive Officer of the ECA Lisa McAuley says we understand there are budgetary constraints, but we think that investing in trade is fundamental to growing the economy and creating jobs.

"International business support is vital for Australia's economy and while its pleasing to see developments through the "single window" to ease the current documentation process, the ECA urges more government funding to help support trade promotion activities.

"The ECA was the first to recommend the development of a single window electronic platform to process all import, export and transit related regulatory requirements in Australia and we have, on behalf of our members been driving the need to address domestic regulation to facilitate trade and improve competitiveness for a number of years now," Ms McAuley said.

Many countries already have a single window for trade, including the United States, New Zealand, Mexico, Singapore and South Korea. Implementing such a facility serves to improve trade facilitation by simplifying procedures and formalities for document submission and data collection, saving government and business time and money.

Indeed, the South Korean Customs Services estimates that introducing its single window generated roughly USD 18 million in benefits in 2010. Singapore's single window was created in 1989 and brings together more than 35 border agencies, with significant productivity and monetary gains.

"The ECA believes that, among others, these examples provide an indication that there is value in developing a single window for trade in Australia, in order to reduce complexity for businesses and improve efficiencies.

"We also agree with the establishment of a professional services mutual recognition unit and we see this as a huge step forward in assisting services exports.

"While we are pleased with the results of today's release, the ECA is looking forward to the opposition's policy statement which is due out soon. The ECA is hosting an event for members only on 7 June for Senator Penny Wong and Minister Steven Ciobo.

"The Minister and Shadow Minister will present their views on issues pertinent to Australia's international trade agenda, before participating in a panel discussion moderated by Peter Martin, Economics Editor for The Age," Ms McAuley said.

For further information on the ECA's Trade Policy election recommendations please go to: [www.export.org.au](http://www.export.org.au)

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