



Export Council of Australia

The Voice for Australia's Exporters

PACER Plus Negotiations Provide Win/Win for Pacific Islands Countries

For immediate release

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The Export Council of Australia (ECA) warmly welcomes the conclusion of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus negotiations.

For developing countries in the region, prosperity can only come through the development of a strong private sector. With imports leading to a more competitive economy, and exports leading to stronger businesses that employ more people and pay higher wages, trade is crucial to developing a strong private sector.

The advantage of the PACER Plus agreement is that it explicitly recognises the strong links between trade and development.

“All of Australia’s free trade agreements have provided win-win outcomes,” said ECA CEO Lisa McAuley. “PACER Plus will be no exception. It has the potential to make a truly positive impact on the lives of people from the Pacific Island countries that are party to the agreement. And it is in Australia’s interests to have an economically strong and prosperous region.”

“The ECA congratulates the Trade Minister, the Hon Steven Ciobo, on the conclusion of this agreement. We also congratulate those former Australian trade ministers who have advanced this agreement since the start of negotiations in 2009, as well as Australia’s tireless trade negotiators.” said Ms McAuley.

The ECA is a strong advocate for Australia’s aid-for-trade program. Continuing and expanding the aid-for-trade agenda was one of the ECA’s nine trade policy recommendations in 2017. You can read the full text of the ECA’s 2017 Trade Policy Recommendations at <http://www.export.org.au/trade-policy/trade-policy-recommendations>

For further information:

Richelle Ward
richelleward@export.org.au
0414 290 526