

PREAMBLE

The Governments of Australia (“Australia”) and the People’s Republic of China (“China”), hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties”:

Inspired by their longstanding friendship and growing bilateral economic and trade relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972;

Recalling the *Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework between the People’s Republic of China and Commonwealth of Australia* adopted on 24 October 2003 with the objective of strengthening the comprehensive and stable economic and trade relationship between the Parties;

Building on their rights, obligations and undertakings under the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* and other multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements and arrangements;

Mindful of their commitment to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (“APEC”) goals and principles, and in particular the efforts of all APEC economies to meet the APEC Bogor Goals of free and open trade and the actions subscribed to in the *Osaka Action Agenda*;

Upholding the rights of their governments to regulate in order to meet national policy objectives, and to preserve their flexibility to safeguard public welfare;

Desiring to strengthen their economic partnership and further liberalise bilateral trade and investment to bring economic and social benefits, to create new opportunities for employment and to improve the living standards of their peoples;

Resolved to create an expanded market for goods and services in their territories through establishing clear rules governing their trade which will ensure a predictable, transparent and consistent commercial framework for business operations; and

Recognising that the strengthening of their economic partnership through a free trade agreement, which removes barriers to the trade of goods and services and investment flows, will produce mutual benefits for the Parties;

Have agreed as follows: