



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretary** for Special Concerns, and **Director, in concurrent capacity**, Biodiversity Management Bureau
The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects, and **Director, in concurrent capacity**, Forest Management Bureau
The Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The OIC Director**, Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON AUSTRALIA'S TRANSPOSED SCHEDULE OF TARIFF COMMITMENTS (SOC) IN HS 2017 UNDER THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)**

DATE : **23 MAY 2021**

This pertains to the letter dated 10 May 2021 from Dir. Angelo Salvador M. Benedictos of the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of International Trade Relations (DTI-BITR), requesting for comments on Australia's SOC in HS 2017 under the RCEP.

It can be noted that during the 2nd RCEP Interim Joint Committee Virtual Meeting held on 15 March 2021, it was discussed that Signatory States will endeavor to circulate the transposed Tariff Reduction Schedule (TRS) accompanied by a two-way correlation table (CORTAB) by the end of April 2021. Nevertheless, for Signatory States who are ready with their TRS and CORTAB are encouraged to circulate them as soon as possible for the Signatory States to commence technical verification of the said schedules. It was also agreed that the technical verification should be completed by the end of September 2021.

During the Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on Trade in Goods (IAC-TIG) for the Line-by-line Review of the Philippine SOC in AHTN 2017 held on 15 March 2021, it was discussed that the transposed SOCs of the Signatory States will be circulated to the IAC-TIG for individual review of agencies.

In view of the foregoing, we would like to refer DTI-BITR's request to your respective Offices for comments on the attached Australia's SOC. It is suggested to focus your review on the correctness of the transposition, particularly ensuring that the tariff commitments have been maintained. The DTI-BITR has also provided a copy of Australia's tariff reduction schedules (TRSs) in HS 2012 to assist in your review. The relevant documents may be accessed through the following Google drive link: <https://bit.ly/3fOLlz4>.

We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your comments **on or before 31 May 2021**, through this email address: psddivision@gmail.com, copy furnished policy@denr.gov.ph, to facilitate consolidation and immediate submission to DTI-BITR.

For your appropriate action, please.


MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO

10 May 2021

(Please refer to the attached Distribution List)

Subject: Verification of Australia's Transposed Schedule of Tariff Commitments (SOC) in HS 2017 under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

This has reference to our letter dated 23 March 2021 on the transposition and technical verification of the SOCs of RCEP Signatory States to HS 2017 which is targeted to be completed by September 2021.

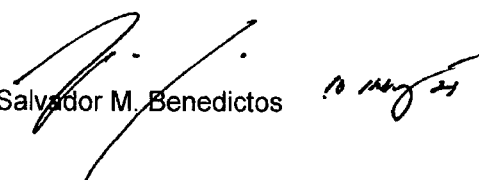
The Bureau received Australia's transposed SOC in HS 2017 accompanied by the two-way correlation tables (Annex A). In this regard, we are respectfully requesting agencies to review the transposition of Australia's SOC. We suggest the review to focus on the correctness of the transposition, particularly ensuring that the tariff commitments have been maintained. To assist in the review, the Bureau is also sending a copy of Australia's TRS in HS 2012.

For reference, in addition to these two new SOCs, the Bureau has previously circulated the SOCs of Brunei Darussalam, China, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, and New Zealand for the review of agencies. The status of the verification process is reflected in Annex B.

We would greatly appreciate receiving your comments to the SOC of Australia **by 31 May 2021**. For further queries and/or clarifications, you may coordinate directly with Ms. Hanah Domingo at HananielaDomingo@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation.

Sincerely,


Angelo Salvador M. Benedictos
Director

CC: Assistant Secretary Allan B. Gepty, IDTPG

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS