

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

CHAPTER SUMMARY: COMPETITIVENESS AND BUSINESS FACILITATION

The Competitiveness and Business Facilitation Chapter focuses on strengthening supply chains (also known as 'global value chains' or GVCs). GVCs are central to international trade and investment, particularly in Asia.

There are diverse benefits to Australian businesses, exporters and consumers from greater participation in GVCs. GVCs provide opportunities for businesses to enter markets by specialising in intermediate activities within a chain and to enhance into higher-value segments of their industries. GVCs also allow Australian businesses to learn new production methods, meet standards that enhance their market access, facilitate exports, encourage uptake of technology, and access new sources of capital. For more information on GVCs, refer to: [Background paper: Global Value Chains and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#).

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHAPTER

To enhance competitiveness and business participation in TPP Parties, a **Committee on Competitiveness and Business Facilitation** will be established, comprising government representatives of each TPP Party. The Committee will:

- encourage information sharing on efforts to enhance competitiveness in TPP Parties to promote further trade, investment, and economic integration;
- explore ways to take advantage of the trade and investment opportunities the TPP creates;
- advise the TPP Commission on ways to enhance competitiveness, including ways to enhance the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in GVCs;
- explore ways to promote the expansion and strengthening of GVCs; and
- conduct periodic reviews of the extent to which the TPP has facilitated the development, strengthening and operation of GVCs in TPP Parties.

The Competitiveness and Business Facilitation Chapter is not subject to the TPP Dispute Settlement Chapter.

