



**Jason Wood MP**  
Federal Member for La Trobe

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### LOCAL BUSINESSES URGED TO UNLOCK EXPORT POTENTIAL OF KOREA FTA

Small businesses in La Trobe are being encouraged to explore the export opportunities created by the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA), which entered into force today.

Jason Wood MP said the Agreement reduces tariffs and other trade barriers with Australia's third-largest export market, which will increase competitiveness and demand for Australian products and services.

"From today, 84 per cent of Australia's merchandise exports to Korea by value enter duty free, including agricultural and industrial goods. This will rise to 99.8 per cent when the Agreement is fully implemented," Jason Wood said.

Jason Wood said today's tariff cuts will be followed by another round of cuts in less than three weeks, on New Year's day.

"The Abbott Government was determined to see the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement enter into force by the end of the year, in order to gain back-to-back tariff cuts," Jason Wood said.

"To secure two rounds of tariff cuts almost immediately not only opens up exciting export opportunities, but it also greatly enhances our competitive position.

"The Free Trade Agreement with Korea creates significantly improved market access for exporters across a range of areas, from agriculture through to service providers and I urge small businesses and family enterprises in La Trobe to explore the potential opportunities the Agreement has opened up," Jason Wood said.

Under the Agreement, Australia has committed to eliminating its remaining tariffs on imports from Korea which Jason Wood said, will place downward price pressure on Korean imported goods for consumers and business.

"This will support competitiveness and profitability for small businesses and family enterprises in La Trobe and potentially, also means consumers may have access to cheaper Korean-made electronics and whitegoods," Jason Wood said.

KAFTA is the first of three transformational trade agreements – secured by the Abbott Government – to come into force; trade deals with Japan and China – a key export market for many small businesses – complete the trifecta.

Small businesses are encouraged to use a new step-by-step guide to accessing preferential tariffs on exports to Korea, which can be found at: [www.dfat.gov.au/fta/kafta/fact-sheets/guide-to-using-kafta-to-export-and-import-goods.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/kafta/fact-sheets/guide-to-using-kafta-to-export-and-import-goods.html).

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