Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Australian Trade Remedies Commission

International Trade Remedies Forum Minutes

Tuesday 29 September 2026

Welcome and opening

The Commissioner of the Australian Trade Remedies Commission opened the special meeting, made an Acknowledgement of Country, and thanked International Trade Remedies Forum (ITRF) members for attending at short notice.

The Commissioner said the Anti-Dumping Commission had been renamed the Australian Trade Remedies Commission (ATRC) following the commencement of the Customs Amendment (Safeguard Inquiries) Act 2026. The ATRC is responsible for Australia's anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard inquiry functions. Bringing these functions together within a single agency creates a more coherent trade remedies framework.

The Commissioner acknowledged the ITRF's longstanding contribution to policy advocacy and trade remedies reform, including its support for bringing all trade remedies functions together in one body. The Commissioner encouraged members to continue contributing practical ideas and advocating for reform.

The Commissioner encouraged members to help broaden awareness of the trade remedies system, particularly among small and medium enterprises, so businesses could understand how the system operates, remain informed about developments and cases, and be aware of opportunities to participate.

The Commissioner acknowledged the enactment of the Regulatory Reform Omnibus Act 2026, noting that it contained reforms to streamline the trade remedies system that ITRF members had proposed.

The Head of the Heavy Industry and Local Manufacturing Division in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, welcomed the reforms and described their achievement as a collective effort involving government commitment, the Minister, the ITRF, the Commission and departmental teams.

The Commissioner advised that building safeguards capability was a key priority. Recruitment would commence shortly to expand the team at executive and operational levels and ensure the Commission could respond to safeguard matters and discharge its new legislative responsibilities.

The Commissioner advised members that Isolde Lueckenhausen had accepted a new role and would leave the Commission on 23 October 2026. He thanked her for her contribution over five years, including her support to the Commissioner, the Commission and its staff, and ITRF members.

Questions and member feedback

Review mechanisms for safeguards

A member welcomed the reforms and asked what review mechanisms would apply to safeguards, noting that the anti-dumping system has the Anti-Dumping Review Panel.

DISR and Commission representatives advised that the safeguards legislation does not provide for merits review by the Anti-Dumping Review Panel. Judicial review may be available, as it is for Commonwealth decision-making more generally.

Resourcing of the safeguards function

A member asked whether additional funding would accompany the Commission's expanded responsibilities, including what this could mean for staffing.

The Commissioner advised that funding decisions were matters for Government and were being worked through by the department and the Commission. He noted the importance of appropriately resourcing safeguards without affecting anti-dumping investigations. The Commissioner confirmed that recruitment would proceed to establish the team needed to discharge the Commission's safeguard responsibilities.

The Head of the Heavy Industry and Local Manufacturing Division referred to correspondence between the ITRF and the Minister about appropriate resourcing. She advised that funding decisions are considered through government budget processes, which do not always align with the timing of legislation and Royal Assent, and staged consideration of resourcing was expected.

The Commissioner acknowledged that adequate funding was a key concern for industry and noted that the issue had also been raised in stakeholder submissions to the Senate inquiry into the legislative reforms.

Closing remarks

The Commissioner thanked members for attending at short notice and for their contribution to the reforms. He advised that members could continue to direct questions to the Commission and the department outside the meeting.

The Commissioner advised that the next ITRF meeting would be held in Melbourne on 3 December 2026.

Attachment A: Attendees

Australian Trade Remedies Commission
Virtual
• David Latina, Commissioner • Isolde Lueckenhausen, Deputy Commissioner, Investigations • Aggie Marek, Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Operations • Katrina Gunn, Executive Director, Legal • Monika Lacey, Executive Officer • Justin Wickes, Director, Investigations • Jason Fitts, Director, Engagement and Market Intelligence (ITRF Secretariat)

Industry members
Virtual
• Sam Aspinall, Director, Global Trade, Rio Tinto • David Buchanan, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Steel Association • Mark Cain, Chief Executive, Australian Steel Institute • Mel Cheesman, Head of Government and Regulation, Orica • Matt Condon, Trade and Government Affairs Manager, InfraBuild • Marc Cousins, Manager, International Trade Affairs, BlueScope • Sean Howe, Deputy Director, Legal and Industrial, United Workers Union • Andrew Hudson, Partner, Rigby Cooke Lawyers (representing the Food and Beverage Importers Association) • Richard Hyett, Acting CEO, Australian Forest Products Association • Jaqueline Lau, Senior Adviser, Trade and International Affairs, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Brad Leonard, Manager, Border and Biosecurity, International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia • Aleks Mitreski, Senior Advisor, Industry Development and Policy, Australian Industry Group • Thomas Mortimer, National Policy Director, Australian Workers' Union • Steven Murphy, National Secretary, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union • Guy Nichol, Policy Officer, National Farmers' Federation • Travis Wacey, National Policy Research Officer, Timber Furnishing and Textiles Union • Russell Wiese, Director, CGT Law (representing Freight and Trade Alliance)

Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Virtual
• Tara Oliver, Head of Division, Heavy Industry Transition • Belinda Morris, Acting General Manager, Trade Remedies & Global Industry • Chris Hewett, General Manager, Net Zero and Clean Energy • Jeremy Rees, Manager, Trade Remedies

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Virtual
• Ben Jarvis, Director, Market Access and Trade Remedies Section • Oscar Grosser-Kennedy, Director, Subsidies and Trade Remedies Law Section • Tara Leaney, Policy Officer, Market Access and Trade Remedies Section

Australian Border Force
Virtual
• Sondra Gagliardi, Inspector, Trade Risk & Enforcement

Apologies
Virtual
• Ross Becroft, Principal, Gross and Becroft Lawyers, Law Council of Australia

Observers
Virtual
• Dillan Amin, Director, Global Trade & Customs, Rio Tinto