

## **PREAMBLE**

Australia and Singapore (“the Parties”)

Conscious of their longstanding friendship and growing trade and investment relationship;

Desiring to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of their goods and services sectors and expand trade and investment between them;

Recognising that strengthening of their closer economic partnership will bring economic and social benefits and improve the living standards of their people;

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

Recognising their commitment to securing trade liberalisation and an outward looking approach to trade and investment;

Mindful of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation goals of free and open trade and investment;

Conscious that a framework of rules for trade in goods and services, and investment will contribute to the promotion of closer links with other economies, especially in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recognising the need for good corporate governance and a predictable, transparent and consistent business environment to enable businesses to conduct transactions freely, use resources efficiently and take investment and planning decisions with certainty; and

Believing that their cooperative framework could be a dynamic one that also covers newer areas of economic cooperation;

Have agreed as follows: