

Issues and Requests Relating to Foreign Trade and Investment - Australia

Category	No	Issue	Issue Details	Requests	References
1 Restrictions on Entry of Foreign Capitals	(1)	<u>Ambiguous FIRB Approval Standard on M&A by FFEs</u>	<p>- Approval of the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) is necessary on major M&A acquisition by Foreign Funded Enterprises (FFE)s. The FIRB judgement basis is quite ambiguous, devoid of transparency. While in the case of the member firm, there has been no such precedence, a while ago, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a major concern in grain business in the U.S., had reached agreement for purchase of GrainCorp. However, in the end, FIRB rejected the transactions.</p> <p>- A foreign investor into Australia must obtain approval of the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB). It takes substantial time and cost to file application at FIRB, which is quite burdensome when investing in Australia.</p> <p>(Actions)</p> <p>- Department of Finance promulgated on 17 February 2008 Guideline for screening by FIRB, etc. on whether the direct investment applications by foreign government or foreign governmental agencies are "contrary to the national interest".</p> <p>- On 18 December 2008, GOA exempted notification requirement for an alien's acquisition of a housing property as his/her own residence.</p> <p>- On 29 November 2013, Government of Australia (GOA) rejected AS\$2.8 billion (\$2.55 billion) takeover of GrainCorp (GNC.AX) by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a U.S. agribusiness giant, bowing to the pressure from grain growers in a rare and surprising decision. GOA rejected Archer Daniels Midland's plan for acquisition of GrainCorp, an Australian grain dealer for AS\$2.8 billion (the U.S. \$2.55 billion). Treasurer Joe Hockey said he was rejecting the proposal on national interest grounds after Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) failed to reach a consensus recommendation. While he sees no problem about the increase in ADM's capital contribution ratio from the current 20% to 25% approx., he added: "Many industry participants, particularly growers in Eastern Australia, have expressed concern that the proposed acquisition could reduce competition and impede growers' ability to access the grain storage, logistics and distribution network." Hockey told to reporters in Sydney. (Reuter, Sydney, 29 November 2013)</p> <p>- Under the Federal Laws, "The Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 (Cth)" and "The Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Regulations 1989", GOA may reject foreign funded investments, which GOA finds to be "adverse to the national interests". What constitutes "adverse to the national interests" is determined on each case, after careful consideration of various issues broadly, including impact upon Australian economy, society, national security, competition in the industry, and other governmental policies across-the-board.</p> <p>(Improvement)</p> <p>- In August 2009, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation deregulated Control on Direct Investment into Australia by:</p> <p>(1) Repealing the FIRB's prior approval requirement for establishment of a new company of more than AS\$10 million, and</p> <p>(2) Repealing the FIRB's prior approval requirement for investment into an enterprise with net worth of more than AS\$219 million.</p> <p>- Under Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAPEA) enforced in January 2015, FIRB examination basis has been deregulated. It has raised the investment amount into Australia of non-sensitive area from Japan from AS\$204.48 million to AS\$1.780 billion. However, investment into farming land and agri-business is AS\$15 million. EPA does not apply to investment into state enterprises, all of which is subject to FIRB examination.</p>	<p>- While needs for FIRB approval cannot be denied, it is requested that FIRB clarifies the basis of its judgement.</p>	<p>- <u>The Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 (Cth)</u></p> <p>- <u>The Foreign Investment and Takeover Regulations 1989</u></p>

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9 Restrictive Export/Import Trade, Duty, and Customs Clearance	(1)	Abuse of Antidumping Measures	<p>- On 1 April 2004, GOA imposed provisional antidumping duties on thick steel plate from Japan, ROK, PRC, and Indonesia.</p> <p>- On 1 April 2009, GOA terminated the antidumping measures upon reaching the termination date.</p> <p>- 15 June 2012: Initiation of antidumping investigation on hot rolled coil steel from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Malaysia.</p> <p>- 2 December 2012: Decision of antidumping duty levy, Japan: 0% (Acid washed coil), 7% (Other than Acid Washed Coil), Korea: 2.6-11.8%, Taiwan: 2.6-8.2%, and Malaysia: 15%.</p> <p>- On 12 February 2013, GOA initiated investigation on hot rolled plate steel exported from PRC, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, ROK and Taiwan into alleged dumping and subsidisation.</p> <p>- On 19 July 2013, GOA invoked provisions measures against 4-countries excluding Taiwan.</p> <p>- On 19 December 2013, Antidumping Committee (ADC) made affirmative determination of dumping on 4-countries excluding Taiwan (CDV only on PRC), deciding the levy of antidumping duty: Japan: 14.3%, PRC: AD: 0 to 22.1%, Indonesia: 8.6 to 19.3%, ROK: 0 to 20.6%. In addition, ADC decided 2.6 to 36.9% countervailing duty levy as to PRC.</p> <p>- On 24 October 2013, GOA initiated antidumping investigation on hot rolled structural steel sections exported from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.</p> <p>- On 8 January 2014, GOA initiated antidumping investigation on quenched and tempered steel plate exported from Finland, Japan and Sweden. After imposition of provisional measures on 15 May August, on 15 November, GOA published its final affirmative decision.</p> <p>(Actions)</p> <p>- On 1 April 2004, GOA levied antidumping duty on thick plate steel from Japan, South Korea, PRC and Indonesia.</p> <p>- On 1 April 2009, GOA terminated antidumping measures upon reaching the termination date.</p> <p>- On 15 June 2012, GOA initiated antidumping investigation on hot rolled coil imported from Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan.</p> <p>- On 4 December 2012, Prime Minister Julia Gillard released Draft Reform Plan on Antidumping Measures, such as establishment of Dispute Research Committee and the 19-items subject to these measures, including Hot Rolled Plate Steel and Polyvinyl Chloride as to imports from Japan.</p> <p>- On 12 February 2013, The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (Customs and Border Protection) released Australian Customs Dumping Notice No. 2013/18 Hot Rolled Plate Steel Exported from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, Initiation of an Investigation into Alleged Dumping and Subsidisation, triggered by the petition received from BlueScope Steel.</p>	<p>- It is requested that GOA repeals the antidumping measures.</p> <p>- It is requested that GOA repeals the measures.</p> <p>- It is requested that GOA withdraws antidumping investigation as to Japan.</p> <p>- It is requested that GOA withdraws antidumping investigation as to Japan.</p>	<p>- Folio No. 88 Australian Customs Dumping Notice No. 2012/661</p>

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			<p>On 18 July 2013, Australia Anti-Dumping Commission published its Preliminary Affirmative Determination and Imposition of Securities on Hot Rolled Plate Steel imported from the People's Republic of China (including Countervailing Duty), Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. Antidumping Duty of 14.3% applies as to all imports from Japan.</p> <p>- On 5 November 2014, GOA determined Final Antidumping Duty on Quenched and Tempered Steel Plate from Japan (24.5-26.1%), Sweden (9.6%) and Finland (10.8%).</p>		
	(2)	Raise in the Port Service Charge by Large Margin	<p>- A member firm of JBCTIF subsidiary exports wooden chips for papermaking raw materials, using public ports at Bunbury (WA), Portland (VIC) and Geelong (VIC). Port Authority has radically raised the Port Service Charge directly impacting the international competitive edge of the export products.</p> <p>- The harbour premises lease payments and airport terminal rent have gone up sky-high in recent years. Price increases, in many cases, are far above those of Commodity Price Index (CPI). Having nowhere else to pass on such price increases, member firm's subsidiary is forced to absorb the unilateral price increase.</p>	<p>- Before effecting price hike in the port service charge, it is requested that the Port Authority provides to the users an opportunity for exchange of dialogues, provides sufficient explanation, and makes cautious decisions.</p> <p>- It is requested that GOA gives administrative guidance on facilities of highly public nature to institutionalise the annual increase (for example, within the band of CPI).</p>	
	(3)	Fumigation Requirements on Importing Timber, Wooden Articles, Bamboo and Related Products	<p>- The fumigation requirements must be completed before exporting to Australia the finished products manufactured from timber, wooden articles, bamboo and related products.</p>	<p>- It is requested that GOA takes step to repeal the fumigation requirements.</p>	
12 Exchange Controls	(1)	Unstable and Ups and Downs by Large Margin in the Rate of Foreign Exchange	<p>- Radical and sustained weakening of AS has kicked up the import purchase price of home electric appliances, which however cannot be passed on to selling prices, aggravating profitability of member firm's subsidiary (MFS).</p> <p>- In a transaction between related parties, the prevailing Yen depreciation enables MFS to offer special prices to its customers. However, MFS runs on a thin margin, so that if the exchange rate swings toward appreciation of Yen, it will instantly show operational loss: such is the severity of the fluctuation band.</p>	<p>- It is requested that GOP takes step to:</p> <p>-- stabilise foreign exchange fluctuations, and</p> <p>-- holds the fluctuation band within a few percents in 6-months.</p>	

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			<p>(Actions) <u>- With the prevailing low oil prices in the background, on December 2014, the Australian dollar declined to the extent of AS1=US\$0.82, a decline by as much as 13% compared to the rate of 30 June, half a year ago. In recent years, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has expressed its view that Australian dollar is quoted at high level relative to its economic fundamentals, showing its stance to continue the low interest policy, while Governor Glen Stevens, at The Nikkei interview, stated: "An appropriate level of Australian dollars is AS1=US\$0.75."</u></p>		
14 Taxation Systems	(1)	Insufficiency of Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the Mutual Agreement Procedure Provisions of the Tax Treaty	<p><u>- One of the purposes of ratifying the tax treaty (the Convention) is to avoid double taxation and for this purpose, mutual agreement procedure (MAP) provision is included in the going convention. Thanks to this provision, through mutual consultation, avoidance of double taxation has been achieved. However, the MAP remains within the constriction of the "endeavour" provision and does not guarantee agreement between the both authorities, although such provision is deemed unavoidable, judging from the nature of the convention. Prospectively, the failure to reach agreement under MAP results in levy of double taxation on enterprises (particularly in the context of transfer pricing taxation issues.) Furthermore, even if the double taxation is avoided through MAP, enterprises face imposition of additions to tax under the domestic law (such as interest on delayed payment and penalty) in excess of the original tax amount.)</u></p>	<p><u>- It is requested that both GOA and GOJ:</u> <u>-- incorporate into the convention arbitration clause that can be triggered upon collapse of MAP or in the event mutual agreement cannot be reached after the lapse of certain period,</u> <u>-- establish mediation mechanism such as OECD for referral if arbitration fails, and</u> <u>-- include provisions for imposition of additions to tax in the matters for MAP with the view to heighten the predictability in promoting investment both ways between Japan and Australia.</u></p>	Article 19 of the Japan-Australia Tax Convention (Mutual Consultation)
	(2)	Introduction of Various Taxes on Development of Resources	<p><u>- Federal and state governments' heavier tax levy upon the natural resources fields (mineral resource tax and carbon tax have been repealed while royalty tax continues.)</u> <u>- The carbon tax pricing scheme (CTPS), Federal Government of Australia (GOA) has introduced since July 2012, compels about 500 enterprises (including Toyota, GM Holden, and Ford) with high volume of carbon emission) payment of AS\$23 (about 2,000 Japanese yen) levy for each tone of CO2 emissions, which is high in the international perspective. After initial three years of the fixed carbon tax levy, it will shift to an emissions trading scheme (ETS). The CTPS does not apply to industrial products imported from overseas (excepting refrigerant for car air-conditioner). Therefore, it means an extra heavy handicap to the enterprises engaged in the local manufacturing operation in Australia.</u></p>	<p><u>- It is requested that GOA creates a stable unbiased taxation system unbiased to any specific business fields.</u> <u>- It is requested that GOA:</u> <u>-- gives due consideration to the local industries and business bodies exposed to international competition in allocating investment subsidies, and</u> <u>-- designs ETS so that the international competitiveness is assured of the enterprises locally manufacturing products in</u></p>	Now under deliberation. - The Mineral Resource Rent Tax - the Carbon Tax, etc.

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			<p><u>On the other hand, GOA will set aside investment subsidy of A\$800 million (about 70 billion Japanese yen) to enterprises, including those that consume huge volume of electricity, gas, etc., directly affected by the CTPS, by creation of clean energy programme, in order to assure improvement in energy consumption in the manufacturing sectors, and to assist technical/capital investment for higher efficiency in energy consumption and reduction of the global warming gas emission. However, it is highly likely that the amount of subsidy allocated to large manufacturers will be reduced to a minimal level, in light of the diversity and multiplicity of the enterprises and the business units eligible for such subsidy. In sum, the CTPS will most probably end up by the debilitation of the locally manufactured products in price competitiveness against imports.</u></p> <p>(Actions) - By election on 26 June 2013, the change of the Labour Party took place from Julia Gillard to Kevin Rudd (Premier). The new Premier announced repeal of the Carbon Tax, which was simultaneously enforced with MRRT.</p> <p>(Improvement) - On 17 July 2014, the Senate of the Federal Parliament (SFP) approved the Bill to repeal the Carbon Tax Scheme submitted by The Abbott Conservative Coalition Administration. In addition, on 2 September, SFP passed the Bill to repeal Minerals Resource Rent Tax. - <u>On 2nd September 2014, the Bill to repeal The Mineral Resource Rent Tax Act (MRRTA) passed the senate of parliament. The mineral resource rent tax is a scheme to levy 30% tax on profits gained from mining iron ore and coal (including the related products, in part). It met with deep-seated opposition of enterprises because of its excessive heavy burden. Along with the conservative coalition party's election campaign pledge on repeal of carbon tax scheme (decided on 17 July), MRRT has become a dead law.</u></p>	<p><u>Australia, when the time comes for shift to ETS.</u></p>	
	(3)	Repeal of Tax Exemption Measures on the Living-Away-From-Home Allowance and Benefits	<p>The proposed reform on the Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA) scheme for temporary residents in Australia has come into force since 1 October 2012, so that various allowances for expatriates, including in particular, housing cost allowance, have become taxable. Foreign investment is indispensable for the Australian economic growth. Heavier tax burden upon the expatriates reduces foreign investment into Australia, inducing relocation of quality human resources to other metropolitan cities in the Asia-Pacific Region. (Australian tax rates for private income tax (PIT 45% maximum) and fringe benefits tax (FBT 49% maximum) are, by far, higher than other countries in this region. The impact upon foreign funded enterprises (FFE) is too serious).</p>	It is requested that GOA sets up a reasonable tax exemption threshold in tax levy. (Australian tax rates for PIT and FBT are far higher than other countries in this region.)	- Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986 - MT 2030 Fringe Benefits Tax, Living-Away-From-Home Allowance Benefits - LAFHA - Budget Measures 2012-13 - Budget Paper No_ 2 - Part 1 Revenue Measures – Treasury - Fringe Benefits Tax - Australian Tax Laws

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			<p>- By amendment of LAFHA (Living Away From Home Allowance) tax scheme, FBTs for of expatriates have become taxable, such as house rent allowance, meal allowance, and children's educational allowance, increasing the cost of MFS (Member Firm's Subsidiary) operation cost in Australia. In addition, the costs incurred for expatriates are generally expensive, obstructing despatch of expatriates from Japan.</p> <p>- <u>The FBT burden upon expatriates is quite substantial so that it has become one of the substantial factors that kick up operational costs.</u></p>	<p>- It is requested that GOA considers providing:</p> <p>-- a transitional period (as tax rate in excess of 40%, gives a substantial impact on MFS's P&L), and</p> <p>-- some kind of incentive measures.</p> <p>- <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to reduce the FBT burden levied upon expatriates from overseas.</u></p>	
	(4)	<u>Absorption of Withholding Tax on Accrued Interest on the Borrowing from Overseas Related Companies</u>	<p>- <u>GOA levies 5% withholding tax on interests paid for the borrowing made by MFS in Singapore from its parent in Japan, its branch(es) in Singapore, etc.</u></p> <p><u>Absorption of withholding tax is not insignificant on accrued interest paid for the borrowing from headquarters / branches of the Japanese financial institutions that rely upon their headquarters, etc. for fund procurement.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOJ develops discussion with GOA to alleviate the tax burden described in the left column.</u></p>	<p>- <u>Part B, the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</u></p>
	(5)	<u>Complex Stamp Duty Scheme</u>	<p>- <u>Relative to sales and purchase of shares of a company that owned a land property, there was a case where high amount of stamp duty (of a small percentage) was levied. It necessitated incorporation of an investment company or a land tenure company (including selection of the state of incorporation) to consider the measures to minimise the tax liability. All of these points to more complications in the investment form. Stamp duty provisions are complicated; moreover, it varies from state to state, defying comprehension.</u></p> <p>(Actions)</p> <p>- <u>Each of the State and Special Territorial Governments (ESSTG) levies stamp duty concerning transactions on the loan setup, a partial transfer of marketable securities, transfer of assets or real estate, under the individually different laws and duty rates by the respective states and territories. In Australia transactions in shares of legal entity collects as stamp duty, share transfer tax, land ownership tax or both. ESSTG levies and collects stamp duty also in the case a Non-Australian purchases Non-Australian business body, resulting in change of ownership in the Australian assets.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOA streamlines the stamp duty scheme for promoting investment into Australia.</u></p>	
	(6)	<u>Lack of Consistency between Corporate Income Tax Law and Oil Tax Law</u>	<p>- <u>In regard to petroleum and gas business, GOA collects The Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT), apart from corporate income tax. Under both tax laws, treatment on certain business activities differs between the two tax laws (especially as regards mineral exploration activity), giving extra large amount of workload, while needing the help of tax experts to file tax returns.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to harmonise and to streamline the process of filing tax returns, in as much as it is illogical to have different treatments of a business activity by the difference between the tax schemes.</u></p>	

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	(7)	Irrational Application of the Excise Duty Rates on Alcohol Products	- Excise duty (corresponding to the liquor tax of Japan) on alcoholic drinks today differs substantially by category. It has driven consumers into inadequate drinking habits, while causing imbalance between dealers, hence giving the negative impact to the society as a whole. Particularly problematic is sales of light (ad valorem) tax levy upon cheap wine at extremely low prices.	- It is requested that GOA: -- introduces volume metric tax (so called ad valorem tax based on net alcoholic content), -- repeals wine tax, and applies excise tax to wine.	- <u>Excise Tax</u> - <u>Wine Equalization Tax</u>	
16	Employment	(1)	High Labour Cost	- <u>International competitive edge of the Australian business has been declining in general, while the high labour cost presents managerial issues to deal with.</u> - <u>MFS, being operated by local staff in sales and administration, incurs a high percentage of operational expenses for personnel cost (especially from the minimum wage, overtime premiums for work on Sundays and national holidays), while the minimum number of the requisite employees is fixed, leaving little room for cost reduction therefore MFS faces tough situation with low profitability.</u> (Actions) - <u>Since January 2010, Fair Work Act 2009, relating to workplace relations, and for related purposes, has been in force. It incorporates National Employment Standards (NES), providing the 10 minimum employment entitlements that have to be provided to all employees.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA deregulates the requirements (particularly, the minimum wage) for accepting overseas' workers.</u> - <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to rectify the personnel expenses based on the international competitive edge of the Australian business operations.</u>	- Migration Act 1958 - Fair Work Act - Labour Act
		(2)	<u>Downward Rigidity of LEWs Wages</u>	- <u>The downward rigidity of wages for Locally Employed Workers (LEWs) oppresses management by way of increased cost and difficulty in securing human resources, a factor that weakens the cost competitiveness of the Australian industry.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to rectify the problems by legislative system.</u>	
		(3)	Shortage of Skilled Workers	- <u>The shortage of skilled workers persists in Australia so that there are occasions where acceptance of foreign workers becomes necessary.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA:</u> -- <u>substantially deregulates the requirements for issuance of the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457), and</u> -- <u>simplifies the visa acquisition procedures.</u>	- Migration Act 1958
		(4)	Jacked up Acquisition Cost and Prolonged Procedures for Expatriate's Visa Acquisition	- <u>Amendment of Migration Act on 1 July 2013 (2013 Amendment), jacked up the acquisition cost of expatriates' visa, while the prolonged examination period is a matter of concern. Moreover, 2013 Amendment requires separate payment of visa acquisition cost also for the accompanying family member(s), not required previously. Further increase has been in effect from 1 September, 2013.</u>	- <u>This Amendment is sequel to remote area allowance levy in 2012, addressed to foreign workers. It is requested that GOA streamlines the visa acquisition procedures and cuts down its examination period.</u>	- Migration Act 1958

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			<p><u>Moreover, for the occupational category at less than the basic wage, minimum IELTS 5.0 scores have become additional requirements.</u></p> <p>(Actions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 3-step (sponsorship nomination long-term work visa) applications and licenses are required to obtain Temporary Business (Long Stay) - Standard Business Sponsorship (Subclass 457 Visa). The requisite documents for Subclass 457 Visa application includes among others passport, Form 1066, Marriage Certificate, Sponsorship Permit, Qualification Examination Document, and if the applicant stays for more than one-year, Health Certificate, Personality Examination, Document showing the past entry/departure records, etc. Furthermore, a certain level of English language skills is required for residents whose mother tongues are not English. If an application is sponsored by Australian enterprises, the Internet application is accepted. However, if it is sponsored by a Japanese enterprise, application must be filed at the Australian Embassy in Japan. - On 5 May 2008, Minister Evans, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) announced: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A special team will be placed in Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth to ensure a smooth processing of Subclass 457 Visa applications; and 2) Improvement measure will be implemented as soon as possible to employ the fast track on Subclass 457 Visa applications by enterprises with a sound performance record. - On 16 March 2009, Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, announced: "The Rudd Government will cut the 2008-09 permanent skilled migration program by 14 per cent [from the initial plan of 133,500 to 115,000 persons] to protect local jobs while ensuring employers can access skilled professionals in industries still experiencing skills shortages." - On 1 July 2009, Ministry of Department of Immigration and Citizenship released a partial change in the examination of Subclass 457 Visa, which is a long stay business visa. The change calls for examination of skills for welders, motor mechanics, chefs and cooks, fitters, and metal fabrication workers from 10 countries, namely, Brazil, Fiji, PRC, India, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South African Republic, Thailand, Vietnam and Zimbabwe for the sake of assuring security and preventing illegality. The release also refers to the planned future additions of the subject countries and the job description. - On 1 July 2009, Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship amended in part the Regulation under which "The minimum salary levels for Temporary Skilled Overseas Workers (subclass 457 visas) will increase by 4.1 per cent from July 1 ...", This makes the minimum salary levels per annum for workers holding Subclass 457 Visa at A\$45,220 and for IT related workers, at A\$61,920. - On 18 February 2010, Ministry for Immigration & Citizenship announced that the 457-Visa issued during July 2009 through January 2010 was a reduction of 47.4% in aggregate. - As of February 2010, generally it takes about one month to have the 457-Visa issued from the filing date of application. This is an improvement compared to the latter half of 2009 when it used to take more than 3-months. (JETRO News Letter dated 26 February 2010, JETRO TSUSHO KOHO). - <u>On 1 July 2013, federal government amended the requirements for acquisition of temporary skilled overseas workers (subclass 457 visas). It has further tightened the terms and conditions for acquisition of subclass 457 visas, making more stringent, including the requirement to provide on the job business training to the Australian employees and to permanent visa holders, the cap on the employees allowable for sponsorship, skill assessments requirement, repeal of exemption of English language skills by work.</u> 		

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			<p>(Improvement) - On 14 October 2014, federal government announced relaxing temporary work (skilled) visa (subclass 457) requirements. The thrust of the amendments are: <u>(1) simplify the review for low risk applicants</u> <u>(2) increase the sponsorship approval period from 12 to 18 months for start-up businesses.</u> <u>(3) provide greater flexibility in relation to English language requirements for 457 applicants</u> <u>(4) retain the temporary skilled migration income threshold at \$53,900, ahead of a review within the next two years.</u></p>		
	(5)	<p><u>Indefinite Procedures / Time for Acquisition of Expatriates' Visa</u></p>	<p>- Upon filing application for visa acquisition, the requisite time for its acquisition varies by large margin from the broad guidance given. <u>Uncertainty on this point can materially disrupt the corporate personnel movement plan (in the case of Japanese affiliated enterprises). Moreover, the approval process and the requisite time are uncertain.</u></p> <p>- <u>Electronic travel authority: The number of cases has increased whereby entry/exit under ETA visa to and from Australia is interrupted upon immigration examination, although it has not yet occurred in the case of a reporting member firm. It is said that in one case, visa was canceled, or in another case, re-entry into Australia suspended for the subsequent 3-years, or in third case, employer was investigated for compliance, monitored, or even penalised in some other cases. There is a concern that occurrences of such events could affect subsequent renewal/application procedures for expatriates' visas, or for renewal or application of sponsorship. In addition, several different responses came back to enquiries made to department of immigration and border protection that show there are communication problems in the department.</u></p>	<p>- It is requested that GOA clarifies the <u>terms and conditions for visa acquisition.</u></p> <p>- It is requested that GOA takes step to: -- <u>put a stop to indiscriminate canceling of entry visas for mid-long term or frequent entry with legitimate reasons, also</u> -- <u>extend its helping hand in dealing with refusal of entry at immigration, and for taking actions as necessary.</u></p>	
			<p>(Improvement) - Under agreement between Japan and Australia Economic Partnership Agreement enforced on 15 January 2015, <u>"The Chapter on Movement of Natural Persons" provides undertakings between the parties concerning temporary stay permit of natural persons, a business visitor, an intra-corporate transferee, an investor, etc. and accompanying spouse and children, and simplification of requirements, while expediting and improving transparency of the procedures.</u></p>		
	(6)	<p><u>Negative Impact on Investment from Over protection of Workers</u></p>	<p>- Due to the labour protection policy, there are cases where employers are <u>compelled to absorb the excessive labour rights, a factor causing "cost overrun" syndrome in investment into business.</u></p> <p>- <u>In Australia, employees' right is heavily protected so that even a change in the assigned work requires the employee's consent. In addition, abundance of strikes led by Trade Union drives up the operation cost, debilitating the competitive edge in export business.</u></p>	<p>- Labour Protection in Australia is <u>prominent among the developed countries. GOA's effort for its moderation is much hoped for.</u></p> <p>- It is requested that GOA takes step to <u>relax assertion of workers' right.</u></p>	<p>- Labour Laws - Fair Work Award</p>

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			<p>- <u>Premium wage for overtime, weekend, and holiday work, and statutory minimum wage frustrate SMEs operators' efforts to develop their business.</u> <u>A reporting member firm frequently receives consultation from them how best to cope with this difficulty. It is difficult to cope. It is almost impossible to give them good advice.</u></p> <p>(Actions) <u>- Since January 2010, Fair Work Act 2009, relating to workplace relations, and for related purposes, has been in force. Apart from the 10-minimum employment entitlements (10-MEE) that have to be provided to all employees, it sets forth labour arbitration by industrial sector and by business sector.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to modify employment legislation to make it more compromising and practicably feasible for SMEs operators.</u></p>	
	(7)	Inflexible Posture of Trade Unions at Labour Management Negotiations	<p>Improvement in productivity and flexibility is indispensable for business entities to remain winners amid the fierce competition and to run business on a stable, competitive basis, the fruits of which materialise as improved working conditions. While employers negotiate with trade unions for fair wages and working conditions on the principle of good faith under the going labour law on collective agreement, trade unions focus only upon improvement of working conditions, threatening decline of the competitive edge of employers' business entity, casting doubt on continuation of the business operation to the end of the year 2017.</p> <p>- <u>Due to the trade union led strikes, the construction work can be delayed.</u></p> <p>- <u>The power of trade unions is quite significant at the construction site in Australia, making management of cost and construction process extremely difficult, while causing drop in profitability. Particularly in Victoria state, trade unions are too strong for Japanese enterprises to operate from scratch construction business successfully.</u></p>	<p>It is requested that GOV weaves into the Fair Work Act a Process, whereby during labour bargaining the Trade Union undertakes to cooperate with employers for improvement of productivity / flexibility in enterprises' operation.</p> <p>- <u>It is requested that GOA takes steps to:</u> <u>-- strengthen the Bureau of Mediation's authority in regard to new Collective Agreement, and</u> <u>-- make more stringent the requirements to authorise labour disputes.</u></p> <p>- <u>For the successful run of the construction site operation, the review on the status quo of the local trade unions is imperative not only for FFEs but also for local industry.</u></p>	<p>Fair Work Act 228 Bargaining representatives must meet the good faith bargaining requirements</p> <p>- <u>Fair Work Act</u> <u>Industrial Relation Law</u> <u>Labor Law</u></p>

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	(8)	Difficulty in Holding Down Invocation of Labour Disputes, Suspension, or Termination of Industrial Action	<p>- <u>Trade unions can readily plead industrial action, which cannot be readily suspended or terminated unless the Fair Work Commission (FWC) is satisfied that the protected industrial action would cause significant harm to the Australian economy or an important part of it. During the industrial bargaining in 2011, a Japanese affiliated manufacturing enterprise experienced 4-times of strike, but its application for termination To the Fair Work Australia (FWA, predecessor of FWC) got rejected because of the excessively high basis for interpretation of what amounts to "significant harm".</u></p> <p>- <u>Led by the trade union, protest movements have arisen, while their impact always exists as risk to the production activity. At the regular negotiation for collective agreement amendment, employers have but meager countermeasure against the trade union's unrealistic demands. Scrap-and-build of factories, measures taken in the course of medium-and long-term management strategies, are at the risk of triggering industrial disputes. They heavily impact business activity. While paying attention to the current administration's move for legislative amendment, it appears, it's a long way to make radical legislative changes.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOA reviews the judgement basis of what amounts to "significant damage" in an industrial action.</u></p> <p>- <u>It is requested that GOA amends the going fair work act (for simpler, and speedier mediation process, and for restricting trade unions activity devoid of balance and fairness, and adequate reinforcement of fair work commission's authority.)</u></p>	<p>- Fair Work Act 2009, Article 424 FWA must suspend or terminate protected industrial action---endangering life etc.</p> <p>- <u>Fair Work Act</u></p>
	(9)	Rampant Sporadic Absentees	<p>- <u>The rules are lax under the going Fair Work Act concerning prior submission of emergency leave notice or medical certificate in proof of accident and sickness. As a result, rampant sporadic absentees slow down production / business activity also in private enterprises.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOC weaves into "Notice and evidence requirements" the rules to deal with sporadic absentees, the solution of which is beyond private bargaining of an enterprise.</u> <u>[Example]: Mandate for submission of medical certificate or voucher for all sporadic absentees.</u></p>	<p>Fair Work Act, Article 107, Notice and evidence requirements</p>
	(10)	Cost Increase due to Securing Drivers' Safety	<p>- <u>Suppliers and transportation operation contractors are responsible for securing the safety of their drivers (from overwork and by arrangement of an adequate operational plan). In addition to the car drivers' insurance, employers incur the cost of proper training and labour control. This is one of the factors that drive up the transportation fees.</u></p>		

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17 Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights ("IPRs")	(1)	Restrictive Rules on Reproduction for Private Use	<p><u>Reproduction for private use actually takes place from an officially purchased music CD into a Personal Computer (PC), from PC to portable audio player, from broadcast programme to audio/video recorder for time-shift, as well as to Smartphone (for listening/viewing while away from home), digitization of books purchased for tablet reading, etc. In light of the fact that all of these conducts cannot be considered injurious to copyright holder, the right of copyright holder requires restrictions. Nevertheless, in certain countries, these conducts are considered illegal, or even if stipulated as legal on certain conducts, such stipulation could be insufficient. Furthermore, in Japan, Article 30 of the Copyright Act restricts copyright relatively broadly in regard to reproduction for private use.</u></p>	<p><u>It is requested that IP Australia introduces restriction on copyright for reproduction for private use on a realistic basis.</u></p>	<p>In Australia, Note (to Article 111 of Copyright Act 1968) provides: "Even though the making of the film or recording does not infringe that copyright, that copyright may be infringed if a copy of the film or recording is made."</p>
	(2)	Anxiety over IPRs Infringement and Increased Counterfeiting from Introduction of TPPL	<p><u>Introduction of Tobacco Plain Packaging Legislation (TPPL) on tobacco products has heavily reduced the identification capabilities (between the products), being the essential faculty of trademarks, materially destructing the "brand value", and consequently damaging the sound market competitions. More precise concerns include, without limitation, customers purchase of unintended products from the difficulty of making distinction, customers' shift to less expensive products, and finally, closing the door for new entry into the market. In addition, simpler packages facilitate counterfeiting activities, resulting in the growth of counterfeits in the market.</u></p> <p><u>(Note) TPPL, a measure to standardise configuration, colour, etc., of individual tobacco package, largely restrict the space on the packaging by the mandate to print specifically, "warnings with photo" (in the 75% of the total area front, and 90% back).</u></p> <p>(Actions)</p> <p><u>In November 2011, federal parliament passed both "Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011" and "Australia Trade Marks Amendment (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Act 2011" enforced in December 2011. On and after 1 December 2012, tobacco packaging shall have uniform dark brown silkscreen surface, with brand name and type showing on the front of the package in the even-spaced characters. Harmful to health warning can be marked at least 75% of the space on the front outer surface and 90% of the space at the back surface.</u></p> <p><u>Article 29.5: "Tobacco Control Measures" of The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, signed on 4 February 2016 by the 13-states, including Australia, under CHAPTER 29 (Exceptions and General Provisions) and General Terms Article 29.5 provide in substance: Contracting party implementing tobacco control measures may elect to deny benefits on such measures under investor state dispute settlement.</u></p>	<p><u>As described in the left column, TPPL infringes upon intellectual property right of business operators, consequently hindering the industrial development through sound market competitions. On the other hand, prevention of Juvenile Smoking is deemed possible through education, with tightened penalties, etc. It is therefore requested that GOA implements the regulation based on the principle lie of proportionate general rules.</u></p> <p><u>It is requested that GOJ grasps the issues fully and takes positive steps for resolving the problems.</u></p>	<p><u>Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011</u></p> <p><u>Tobacco Plain Packaging Regulations 2011</u></p>

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19	Industrial Standards, Approval of Safety Standards	(1)	Introduction of Individual State's Own Independent Safety Standards And Rules	- It seems the move has subsided to promulgate individual STATES' own regulations by their own standards, such as Victoria state's decision for introduction of compulsory safety device, or speed control device draft regulation and New South Wales draft regulation for standardisation of alternative fuel standard. Hereafter, it is requested that the federal government under its initiative will advance harmonisation of the Australian regulations with "The European agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR)." The absence in harmonisation in standards will likely compel car manufacturers to develop individual "state" exclusive diversity of car designs with the resulting delays in new model introduction and the increased costs to the end users.	- It is requested that federal government, hereafter at its initiative: -- strengthens the framework in which to deliberate on standards and specifications with the view to eliminate any chances of individual states from advancing their own standards and regulations, and -- aggressively advance harmonisation of Australian regulations with European ADR.	
		(2)	Aggravated Profitability due to Introduction of National Product Stewardship Legislation	- <u>Beginning 1 July 2012, all manufacturers and importers of television receivers are required to contribute to the recycling of television receivers. This requirement will serve as a new element of aggravating their profitable operation.</u>		
20	Monopoly	(1)	Monopolised Port Services	- <u>Basically the two firms (Patrics and P&O) monopolises port services, eliminating any competition among enterprises for better service and cost reduction. Their excessively high profit rates are matters of concern to GOA also.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA authorises firms other than these two upon opening of the Wolongong Port for port services.</u>	
		(2)	Oligopoly in the Domestic Transportation Business	- <u>Due to the slow handling of the domestic railway, the home-delivery service offered by Toll/IPEC is the main service available with the nation-wide coverage. Toll/IPEC single handedly virtually monopolises the Australian market, impeding a sound inter-company competition.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA improves the slow railway transport, the inefficiency of which is due to differences in the rail width from state to state, requiring loading and unloading of cargoes each time.</u>	
21	Restrictions on Land Ownership	(1)	Delayed Examination for Land Acquisition Licence	- <u>Transactions for land acquisition by foreign funded enterprises are subject to screening by Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB), which takes a lot of time.</u>	- <u>It is requested that FIRB expedites the screening.</u>	- FIRB (http://www.firb.gov.au/)

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			<p>(Actions)</p> <p>- <u>The Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 (Cth) (the Act) provides Minister of Finance shall examine and determine the application within 30-days. However, Minister of Finance is empowered to postpone the period for 120-days maximum by publication in the Australian Gazettes Order nisi, which is issued where the foreign fund case is extremely complex, or where the applicant requires more detailed information.</u></p>		
	(2)	Verification of Identity Procedures on Purchase and Sale of Land Property	<p>- <u>Relative to contract for sale and purchase of land property by foreign funded enterprises (FFE)s, Verification of Identity is necessary for the person signing the contract (PSC). When signing outside Australia, PSC must appear before the person in charge at the Consulate to sign the papers. In addition, Verification of Identity is only possible during morning office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while the details of the requisite documents for Verification of Identity remain undisclosed.</u></p>	<p>- It is requested that Government of Australia (GOA):</p> <p>-- <u>accepts Verification of Identity at places other than the Consulate (for example, at Notary Public's Office).</u></p> <p>-- <u>lengthens the hours for Verification of Identity at the Consulate, and</u></p> <p>-- <u>clearly identifies the requisite documents for Verification of Identity.</u></p>	<p>- Verification of Identity http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/docvault.nsf/web/PS_TR_VI/SFILE/VOIBRO.pdf</p>
22	Environmental Pollution and Waste Disposal	(1) Irrational Implementing Policy for CO2 Emission Control	<p>- In regard to the CO2 emission control issue, which has calmed down for a moment, in light of possible acceleration of its re-introduction, the following issues have been re-ascertained:</p> <p>(1) The consultant's report in support of the draft policy previously submitted for review was based upon CAFÈ's fixed quantitative restriction, which is relatively disadvantageous to car manufacturers whose product line-ups are focused on commercial/large type vehicles.</p> <p>(2) The consultant's report in support of the draft policy is based on unrealistic premises that deviate from the status quo of the car industries and their technical developments.</p> <p>(3) The process toward policy decision has frequently lagged behind the schedule. As it stands, it likely deprives manufacturers of the requisite technical development time to respond to the new regulatory control.</p> <p>(4) The Draft Climate Change Authority (CCA) Regulation proposed in 2014 did not sufficiently reflect the differences in the market composition of Australia vis-à-vis Europe and other regions, lacking fairness in the regulatory control values.</p>	<p>- As described in the left column It is requested that GOA:</p> <p>(1) ensures fairness to all manufacturers in the regulatory provisions that reflect the products' composition, and the market structure,</p> <p>(2) takes into account the deviation of the consultant's report from the real status quo, and</p> <p>(3) decides the timing of the enforcement flexibly to account for the delay in policy decision.</p> <p>(4) The same as (1) and (2).</p>	<p>- Clean Energy Future</p> <p>- Carbon Tax</p> <p>- Carbon Farming Initiative</p> <p>- Renewable Energy Target</p>

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			<p>(Actions)</p> <p>- On 10 July 2011, Prime Minister Gillard released the details for Carbon Pricing System (CPS) as follows: (1) From July 2012, GOA begins CPS at fixed price, after 3-Years of Transitional Period, will shift to Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). (2) Carbon price will be \$A23 per ton of CO2 emission, with effective increase each year by 2.5%. (3) The Top 500 Enterprises (approx.) in CO2 Emission Volume shall be Enterprises subject to CPS.</p>		
	(2)	Nebulous Assumption of GHG Cost	<p>- New conservative coalition government intends to repeal the current carbon tax scheme introduced by the former labour administration. Deliberation on Green House Gas (GHG) measures is now under way. Compared to thermal plants that rely on fossil fuel, the emission volume is slight in the case of a thermal plant running on natural gas. It contributes to reduction in GHG emission. However, if the cost of the scheme for GHG reduction in the natural gas thermal plant is heavier than operations in other countries, the competitive edge of the Australian natural gas thermal plant declines.</p>	<p>- It is requested that GOA introduces GHG scheme that are mindful of the international competitive edge of the Australian LNG project.</p>	<p>- Clean Energy Act 2011' - The Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014</p>
	(3)	Time Consuming Procedures for Environmental Licences and Approvals	<p>- <u>Due to the duplication in approval process of Federal Government and State Governments for grant of the environmental licences and approvals on coal mine development projects, sometimes, it takes a few years for issuance.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOA corrects the licences and approvals procedures by eliminating duplication of the competent authority.</u></p>	<p>Bills relative to Environmental Licences and Approvals</p>
	(4)	<u>Voiding Decision overturning High Court's Violative Decision on Container Deposit Scheme</u>	<p>- <u>"Container Deposit Scheme" now enforced in South Australia and northern territories targets aluminium tins and PET with relatively high recycle rates among the beverage containers, and its restricted implementation only in limited state, and territory compels undue burdens upon consumers, manufacturers and distributors is deemed to be in violation of "Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act." When the related industries sued against South Australia and the northern territories, the high court of Australia judged so. However, South Australia and northern territories later obtained permanent exclusionary approval voiding the high court decision.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that South Australia and northern territories:</u> -- <u>repeal container deposit scheme,</u> and -- <u>rigorously and adequately administers Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act.</u></p>	<p>- Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act</p>
23		Inefficient Administrative Procedures, Regimes and Practices	<p>(1) Delays in the Governmental Approval Procedures of Various Kinds</p> <p>- <u>GOA's reaction is slow; taking more than 6-weeks on products (note) for which GOA's approval is required. These are the products for which GOA's approval is required for safety, market compatibility certificate, etc. before they are allowed to enter Australia.</u></p>	<p>- <u>It is requested that GOA will reinforce its staff on provision of online approval service, which GOA has started since October 2008. Due to the staff shortage, online service takes longer than the previous manual handling.</u></p>	

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	(2)	Varying Licences and Approvals By State	- <u>A licence obtained in one State is not necessarily valid in another State, due to differences of laws in the other State for example, in the adjoining states of Queensland and New South Wales. Because laws and regulations on electrical licences are different in these states, two licences are necessary to repair or service products installed over the State borders. It doubles the cost of acquiring the electrical licences.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA promulgated new regulations on the electrical licences that is valid universally nationwide or each state permits provisions of services based on the electrical licences issued by other states.</u>	
	(3)	Inflexible Contracts on Railway/Harbour Concerning Coal Mine Development	- <u>In the context of the coal mine development in Australia, it seems "Inflexible provision in the Contracts on Railway Transport and Harbour Utility (CRTHU)" negatively impacts in adjusting the production volume (from oversupply). Specifically, railway transport is divided into Below Rails (BR) and Above Railroad Car (ARC) against the annual contract frame, including the monthly frames (split evenly per month over 12-months). Consequently, it is suggested that the monthly tolerance (of say, plus or minus 10% over the monthly frame) would better enable contractors to accommodate the CRTHU requirements. In actual implementation, particularly in cases of open-cut mining, the coal production volume goes up during the dry season, compared to the rainy season. From users' perspective, flexibility in implementation is apparently missing.</u> <u>HARBOUR UTILITY: Monthly Utility Frame (MUF) is evenly split into 12-months. It is considered better to give certain flexibility (such as plus or minus 10% over the monthly frame) if within the annual frame, the same as rtransport.</u> <u>Apart from the foregoing, as regards Harbour utility (Hutility), compared to the existing ports, it is said that the take or pay obligations per ton under the new MUF is higher than that of the existing ports, where depreciation write-off has far advanced. GOA's price contro on Hutility feesl, to a degree, is requested from the users' perspective to avoid substantial gap in Hutility Fees between the new and the existing ports. Otherwise, it would let the existing business entities with the allocated utility frame to enjoy a better competitive position in price.</u>	- <u>While, as a matter of course, including financing of the railway/port operation, its viable construction/operation is not possible without the take or pay obligations, it is equally difficult to select more advantageous ports, in respect of the relative locations of the coal mine and the ports, and the connecting railway facilities, all of which cannot be readily changed overnight.</u> - <u>It is requested that GOA:</u> -- <u>takes measures to provide some flexibility per month or</u> -- <u>in the event of using new ports, adopts the policy to narrow the gap in MUF between the existing and new ports.</u>	
24 Indigested Legislation, Abrupt Changes	(1)	Frequent Amendments of GOA Policy	- <u>Frequent policy reviews devoid of consistency arising from political turmoil drives business operators into huge amount of funding and a long preparatory development period, which disrupts particularly the infrastructure business, etc. that demand huge investments and a long preparatory period.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA constructs its structure capable of maintaining consistent policy over mid-long terms.</u>	

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	(2)	<u>Inadequate Legislation on Corporate Merger</u>	- <u>Due to the absence of legislative scheme on merger, the only means available to a purchaser is to succeed from the predecessor, or renew the existing contracts and agreements, which necessitates a lot of extreme complications.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to complete merger legislation, equivalent to the corresponding Japanese legislation.</u>	- <u>The Corporation Act 2001</u>
	(3)	<u>Abrupt Changes in Taxation Scheme/Delayed Implementing Regulations</u>	- <u>From time to time, abrupt changes in the taxation scheme/royalty occur. Moreover, after the announcement of the outline for legislative change, it takes a long time before the release of the full legislation, in many cases, impacting upon business decisions.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA takes step to ensure:</u> -- <u>provision of opportunities to exchange dialogues with major enterprises including FFEs, and</u> -- <u>transparency in the process of refining the bill in detail.</u>	
	(4)	<u>Delayed Privatisation</u>	- <u>The delayed privatisation has resulted in immature competitive market.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA under its leadership introduces the fundamental principle of the market competition.</u>	
26 Others	(1)	<u>Delays in Port Service Work</u>	- <u>At Botany Port (near Sydney Port) due partly to the calls of ships beyond its holding capacity, there has arisen a chronic demurrage in port services.</u>	- <u>The State of NSW are expanding the Botany Port, while opening of new container port is under consideration at Wolongong. It is requested that GOJ extends its assistance toward its development.</u>	
	(2)	<u>Aggravated Efficiency in Cargo Delivery due to Restricted Kerbside Parking</u>	- <u>Due to restricted kerbside parking, a delivery car must be parked a good distance away from the cargo recipient, and the package must be reloaded on a trolley for delivery. While so doing reduces efficiency in delivery, it is also inductive to thefts of the other cargoes left on the delivery car.</u>		
	(3)	<u>Inadequate Stable Power Supply</u>	- <u>Thermal power generation operators in eastern coastal territory of Australia sell the electric power in the electric power distribution market now face a severe marketing climate from the spread of reusable power generation, assisted by the governmental support, which has slackened the balance between demand and supply. On the other hand, in order to backup the wind and solar power generators, which are susceptible to changes in weather, it is important for business operators to secure and maintain thermal power generation equipment to ensure stable power supply.</u>	- <u>It is requested that GOA implements policy to structure the framework that enables electric power operators to receive consideration for maintaining the thermal power generation capacity and to correct imbalance vis-à-vis reusable energy operators that receive the benefits of governmental support.</u>	- <u>Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Act 2009</u>

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				<p>(Actions)</p> <p>- According to International Energy Agency (IEA), Australian Electricity Power Resources in 2012 comprised of (approx.) coal thermal 70%, gas thermal 20% and others (hydro, reusable energy, etc.) 10%. In 2012, the Australian self-sufficiency rate of primary energy was 247.4%, and energy self-sufficiency rates: coal 511.6%, and natural gas 158.8%.</p> <p>- In 2009, labour coalition administration set the target of raising the reusable energy output in Australia to 20% of the total electricity output in Australia to the tune of 41,000 GWH by 2020. However, the conservative coalition administration that won in September 2009 election reduced this 20% target by 2020 to 33,000 GWH.</p>		
		(4)	<p><u>Inadequate Information Technology Infrastructure</u></p>	<p>- <u>Inadequate information technology infrastructure.</u></p>	<p>- It is requested that GOA invests into <u>the IT infrastructure.</u></p>	