

21 September 2006

The Hon Mark Vaile MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Australian Trade Commission for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (the CAC Act) and Section 92 of the *Australian Trade Commission Act 1985* as it applied during the reporting period.

Under section 9 of the CAC Act, directors of the Board are responsible for producing an annual report in accordance with the rules laid down in Schedule 1 of this Act, including a 'Report of Operations' prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders. In accordance with your decision in response to the recommendations of the *Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Officer Holders* (the 'Uhrig Review'), on 1 July 2006 Austrade ceased to be governed by a board under the CAC Act and became an executive management agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Subsection 12(3) of Part 3 of Schedule 4 to the *Australian Trade Commission Legislation Amendment Act 2006* provides that if a law required the old Commission to provide a report and it did not do so prior to commencement of the amended Act, the Chief Executive Officer must present that report. At its final meeting on 15 June 2006, the Board noted that as Austrade's CEO, I would present the Report of Operations as Austrade's annual report for 2005-06 on its behalf in accordance with these transition provisions.

Yours sincerely



Peter O'Byrne
Chief Executive Officer