

Michael Mugliston PSM

Michael Mugliston has had an extensive 40-year career in the Australian Public Service pursuing Australia's trade and economic interests. He began his career in January 1978 and will be leaving the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in July 2018, following completion of his long service leave.



Michael led Australia's free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with South East Asia from April 2005 until October 2017. He was also Australia's Senior Economic Official for ASEAN-related trade matters during this period. For most of the preceding 27 years Michael was engaged in the development and prosecution of Australian trade policy aimed at advancing Australia's interests, including through multilateral trade negotiations.

Michael led Australia's negotiating team during the preparatory phase and the first five years of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations (2011-17). These negotiations involved ASEAN and ASEAN's FTA partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand).

Michael also led Australia's negotiating team during the four-year negotiation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) which was signed in February 2009 and, since its entry into force in January 2010, had carriage of AANZFTA's implementation. He was also the lead negotiator for the Malaysia-Australia FTA, which entered into force in January 2013, and for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations with Indonesia until 2015.

In 2010 Michael was awarded a Public Service Medal for his work on AANZFTA.

From 1987-94 Michael's multilateral trade policy work concentrated on the GATT Uruguay Round services and intellectual property negotiations. Michael was also involved in international environment negotiations from 1995-97, particularly the Kyoto Protocol climate change negotiations. During the late 1990s Michael was involved in contributing to Australia's policy response to the 1997-98 East Asian Financial Crisis and in maintaining trade flows through appropriate policy advice on the use of the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation's National Interest Account.

Michael served overseas as Deputy Head of Australia's Mission to the EU in Brussels (2001-2004), Counsellor to Australia's Mission to the GATT in Geneva during the Uruguay Round (1991-1994) and First Secretary (Commercial) at the Australian High Commission in London (1984-87).

Michael graduated with an Honours degree in Economics from the University of Western Australia in 1977. He is married with 3 children and 1 grandchild.

Milton Churche

Work Experience

Milton Churche has worked on trade policy since joining the Australian Department of Trade in January 1987 (and in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from July 1987):

2010 – 1 December 2017: Coordinator, South-East Asia Goods Branch, Free Trade Agreement Division:

- Deputy Lead Negotiator, and Lead Negotiator, Goods, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations from launch of negotiations in 2012
- Responsible for preparatory work for the launch of the RCEP negotiations, including the ASEAN-Plus Working Groups from 2010
- Lead Negotiator, Goods, Malaysia-Australia FTA (MAFTA), entered-into-force 1 January 2013
- Responsible for implementation of goods-related aspects of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA), including Co-Chair of the Committee on Trade in Goods, and oversight of the work of three Sub-Committees
- Responsible for delivery of capacity building activities on goods-related issues in ASEAN as part of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program (AECSP)

April 2005 – 2009: Coordinator, Goods, FTA Unit:

- Lead Negotiator, Goods, AANZFTA, entered-into-force 1 January 2010
- Lead Negotiator, Goods, MAFTA (suspended in late 2007 pending the conclusion of AANZFTA)
- Lead Negotiator, Goods, FTA negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, 2005-2006 (suspended when attention turned to negotiating an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council)
- Coordinating policy advice to other FTA negotiations

July 2002 – March 2005: Services and Investment Negotiator, Office of Trade Negotiations:

- Lead Negotiator, Services and Investment, for the Singapore-Australia FTA (SAFTA), entered-into-force July 2003, and the Australia-United States FTA (AUSFTA), entered-into-force 1 January 2005

1998 – March 2001: Director, WTO Rules & Trade and Environment Section, Office of Trade Negotiations:

- Responsible for work on trade and environment in the WTO, including representation on the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, and management of environment-related WTO disputes.
- Responsible for advice on WTO-related issues raised by negotiations for multilateral environmental agreements (including Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, Biosafety Protocol, Rotterdam Convention, Kyoto Convention, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)
- Responsible for WTO work on trade facilitation, rules of origin and customs valuation.

1994 – 1998: Executive Officer, GATT Projects Section, GATT Branch, Office of Trade Negotiations:

- Research and policy advice on trade and environment issues, and representation on the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment
- Provision of advice on WTO rules in relation to industry policy, other domestic policies, and on multilateral environmental negotiations

1987 – 1994: Agriculture Section, Trade Rules Negotiations A Branch, Multilateral Trade Division:

- Research, policy advice and negotiator on agriculture in the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations that led to the establishment of the WTO
- Research and policy support to Australia's chairing of the Cairns Group of Agricultural Fair Traders

Education and Other

- March 2001 – June 2002: Visiting Fellow, School of Economics, Australian National University. Conducting research into the history of the multilateral trading system. On leave from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ph.D. (1987), B.A. (Hons) (1981), University of Sydney

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