



By Camellia Aebischer

Thursday 1st November 2018, 0:43 GMT

Australia ratifies CPTPP

Joining five other nations, Australia's commitment has triggered a 60-day countdown to tariff reductions



On 31 October, Australia became the sixth country to ratify its position in the [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (TPP-11, and also known as the CPTPP).

Joining Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, and Singapore in the first group to ratify the agreement means a majority sign-off triggers a 60-day countdown to the first round of tariff cuts.

The first tariff cuts under the agreement will enter into force on 30 December 2018. A second reduction will occur three days later on 1 January 2019.

For Australia, tariff reductions to Mexico are expected to benefit the horticulture sector, and the broader agriculture industry will see improved access.

Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Peru, and Vietnam are also part of the agreement, but are yet to ratify their positions.

ExportNZ executive director Catherine Beard is pleased by the ratification and looming tariff reductions.

"CPTPP brings Japan, Canada and Mexico into a trade deal with New Zealand for the first time. These

countries have large markets that will now become progressively open to New Zealand goods and services, improving New Zealand's trade earnings," she said.

"Other country members of CPTPP will now also offer terms of trade more favourable to New Zealand exports."

The New Zealand government expects items like buttercup squash into Japan to become tariff-free; onions to Japan to have tariffs removed within the next six years; and tariffs in other countries to be eliminated on a number of items like cherries, radish, carrot seed, [kiwifruit](#), and avocado.