



**James Baxter, First Assistant Secretary
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James Baxter is currently First Assistant Secretary of the Office of Trade Negotiations in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In this capacity, James oversees Australia's global trade policy development and implementation, including Australia's engagement at the World Trade Organization.

James was Australia's Chief Negotiator for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, signed on 15 November 2020.

James has previously worked on Australia's engagement with ASEAN on trade and economic issues and has extensive experience in trade agreements and international law.

James was the Deputy Head of Mission at Geneva WTO from 2012 to 2016, Counsellor at Brussels 2007, and First Secretary and later Counsellor from 1997 to 2001 in Tokyo.