



ELISABETH BOWES

First Assistant Secretary and Chief Negotiator

Regional Trade Agreements Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Elisabeth Bowes was appointed Chief Negotiator, Regional Trade Agreements Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in January 2020, and then First Assistant Secretary in May 2020. Prior to that appointment, Elisabeth was Assistant Secretary, Trade and Investment Law Branch, Office of Trade Negotiations in DFAT (September 2019-January 2020), and Minister-Counsellor (Trade) at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC (July 2016-July 2019). In that position, Ms Bowes oversaw bilateral trade relations between the US and Australia, as well as broader trade policy issues, climate change and energy issues, infrastructure and transportation. Prior to arriving in Washington, Elisabeth Bowes was Head of the Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce in the Office of Trade Negotiations in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra, from 2012-2016, where she led Australia's defence of its world first tobacco plain packaging measure in dispute settlement proceedings in the World Trade Organisation.

Elisabeth Bowes was also previously posted as Counsellor to Australia's Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva, from 2009 - 2012. In this position she was responsible for WTO dispute settlement and trade and environment negotiations. Prior to joining Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2006 as a legal specialist, Elisabeth Bowes was a legal officer at the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva and a legal officer at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg.