



**The Hon Craig Laundry MP**

Minister for Small and Family Business, the Workplace and Deregulation

Reference: MC18-002241

Mr Ravichandran Ragupathy  
Australia Country Partner & Knowledge Partner  
Vibrant Tamil Nadu Global Expo and Summit Food Edition 2018  
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Dear Mr Ragupathy

Thank you for your email of 17 July 2018 inviting me to the Vibrant Tamil Nadu Expo and Summit Food Edition 2018.

Australia and India have a long established relationship across a broad range of areas. Whilst we are fierce competitors on the cricket pitch, India sits in the front rank of Australia's international partnerships. India has striking economic potential and we are seeking much closer economic ties. India is Australia's fifth largest export market with Australian merchandise and services exports valued at approximately \$19.2 billion as of 2016-2017. Australian food products, in particular, are establishing a reputation of 'clean and green' and assurance of quality.

Regrettably, I am unable to travel to India at the time of the Summit. However, I am sure the Australian food business delegation will do us proud and strengthen our trade relations with India.

Thank you for your kind invitation and I wish you all the best for the Tamil Nadu Expo and Summit Food Edition 2018.

Yours sincerely

Craig Laundry