

The TPPA and NZ small businesses: What you need to know

You've probably heard that the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement ('TPPA') is a trade and investment agreement being negotiated between 12 Asia-Pacific nations, including the US and NZ.

You might not have heard too much of the detail on the agreement, because it's being negotiated in secret.

The promise of increasing trade has always attracted NZ businesses, given we are a small trading nation. But the US is the big player here and it is unlikely to give NZ much, if anything at all.

You might also not know that traditional trade rules play only a minor role in this agreement, featuring in only 5 of the 29 chapters.

Most of the agreement is focused on the kinds of laws we are allowed to have, such as

- affordability of medicines
- preferences for NZ firms in local and central government procurement,
- takeovers by foreign firms
- the Internet and ability to innovate.

Foreign investors get special rights not available to local business, which they can enforce offshore, and input into government decisions.

Our businesses, our workers and our democratic rights come last.

**THE TPPA COULD HAVE AN
ENORMOUS IMPACT ON
THE ABILITY OF SMALL
BUSINESSES TO OPERATE
IN NEW ZEALAND.**

IT'S OUR
FUTURE

NZ

The TPPA and NZ small businesses: What you need to know

You've probably heard that the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement ('TPPA') is a trade and investment agreement being negotiated between 12 Asia-Pacific nations, including the US and NZ.

You might not have heard too much of the detail on the agreement, because it's being negotiated in secret.

The promise of increasing trade has always attracted NZ businesses, given we are a small trading nation. But the US is the big player here and it is unlikely to give NZ much, if anything at all.

You might also not know that traditional trade rules play only a minor role in this agreement, featuring in only 5 of the 29 chapters.

Most of the agreement is focused on the kinds of laws we are allowed to have, such as

- affordability of medicines
- preferences for NZ firms in local and central government procurement,
- takeovers by foreign firms
- the Internet and ability to innovate.

Foreign investors get special rights not available to local business, which they can enforce offshore, and input into government decisions.

Our businesses, our workers and our democratic rights come last.

**THE TPPA COULD HAVE AN
ENORMOUS IMPACT ON
THE ABILITY OF SMALL
BUSINESSES TO OPERATE
IN NEW ZEALAND.**

IT'S OUR
FUTURE

NZ

Intellectual Property: TPPA chapters covering intellectual property involve longer and stricter monopoly rights that constrain innovation and increase cost to access knowledge from public and private facilities. This can significantly boost the operating costs of small businesses.

Public procurement: Many small business supply goods and services to government, and those contracts are often supported by rules that favour local businesses. TPPA's rules on government procurement open these contracts up to allow large foreign multinationals greater access to these contracts.

Rules around food safety and GMO labelling: Many small businesses are in the food sector, and under TPPA we risk losing our ability to set our own food safety regulations.

Mergers and Acquisitions: By relaxing rules on foreign investment TPPA will leave small businesses subject to more mergers and acquisitions.

Internet Regulation: Many small businesses now survive through the internet and social media, however TPPA could require ISPs to patrol and content and require that users remove content breaching copyright.

Affordability of medicines: All kiwis benefit from Pharmac, which bulk-buys generic medicines identical to those whose intellectual property has expired. TPPA will extend that protection and allows Big Pharma greater input into the pricing process, pushing up national public health costs.

Intellectual Property: TPPA chapters covering intellectual property involve longer and stricter monopoly rights that constrain innovation and increase cost to access knowledge from public and private facilities. This can significantly boost the operating costs of small businesses.

Public procurement: Many small business supply goods and services to government, and those contracts are often supported by rules that favour local businesses. TPPA's rules on government procurement open these contracts up to allow large foreign multinationals greater access to these contracts.

Rules around food safety and GMO labelling: Many small businesses are in the food sector, and under TPPA we risk losing our ability to set our own food safety regulations.

Mergers and Acquisitions: By relaxing rules on foreign investment TPPA will leave small businesses subject to more mergers and acquisitions.

Internet Regulation: Many small businesses now survive through the internet and social media, however TPPA could require ISPs to patrol and content and require that users remove content breaching copyright.

Affordability of medicines: All kiwis benefit from Pharmac, which bulk-buys generic medicines identical to those whose intellectual property has expired. TPPA will extend that protection and allows Big Pharma greater input into the pricing process, pushing up national public health costs.

**For more information, please
visit: www.itsourfuture.org.nz**

IT'S OUR
FUTURE 

**For more information, please
visit: www.itsourfuture.org.nz**

IT'S OUR
FUTURE 