



## Economics and Industry Standing Committee

# MEDIA RELEASE

### Report tabled: A LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP: DEVELOPING STRONGER TIES WITH INDONESIA

17 August 2023

Today the Economics and Industry Standing Committee tabled its report on its inquiry into Western Australia's bilateral trade relationship with the Republic of Indonesia, *A long-term partnership: developing stronger ties with Indonesia*.

Indonesia is an important trade partner for Western Australia, but it is also so much more than that. It is our closest international neighbour and a fast-growing global economy. It is said that Indonesia will be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world by 2030.

For a long time, West Australians have loved to visit Bali. But it is about time that we got to know Indonesia in a deeper and much broader way.

Building a strong bilateral trade and investment partnership is about building relationships at all levels: government, business and people. Developing these relationships starts with people-to-people connections. People-to-people links can be facilitated by growing our understanding of Indonesian culture and language, and encouraging Indonesians to visit the state for education, work, leisure and business.

There is considerable underdeveloped potential in the WA-Indonesia relationship. Indonesia's growing population, labour productivity and per capita income are all factors which make it an attractive market for WA businesses. There are significant opportunities for economic collaboration with Indonesia in education, training, battery and EV supply chains, to name a few. These are enhanced by the 2020 ratification of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

The report recommends establishing a dedicated WA trade and investment commissioner located in the Government of WA Jakarta Office. It also recommends establishing a second trade and investment office in Surabaya. The committee believes that this will be a good way to demonstrate that WA is serious about its bilateral relationship with Indonesia.

In addition, this report presents other recommendations to the state government for achieving a prosperous and long-term partnership with Indonesia.

The report can be accessed at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au/eisc](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/eisc).

For comment on the report please contact the Chair of the committee, the Hon Peter Tinley MLA, on 0424 079 351. For other inquiries please contact the Principal Research Officer on 9222 7857.