

## Message

I am delighted to congratulate the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AustCham) on its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

With more than 900 members from over 230 companies, the AustCham is among the largest international Chambers in Hong Kong and one of the largest Australian Chambers in the world.

AustCham has long promoted business cooperation between our two economies and played a vital role in expanding our flourishing ties. Indeed, Hong Kong is Australia's fifth-largest source of direct foreign investment. With the Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement between Hong Kong and Australia in effect since 2020, and Hong Kong's prospective accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, I am confident that AustCham's role in boosting business and investment prospects will become even more significant in the coming years.

Thanks to our unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems," and our strategic role as the critical gateway to Mainland, Hong Kong is blessed with boundless business opportunities. That includes the Greater Bay Area, fast-emerging as one of the world's great cluster-city developments.



AustCham is also a longstanding contributor to the Hong Kong community as well. At this year's gala dinner, AustCham will launch its Community Awards. I am pleased, too, to note that AustCham will support Austrade at the annual Festival of Australia here in October and November. The Festival, which promotes Australian food and beverage, will put a heightened emphasis this year on Hong Kong's world-class hospitality.

With Hong Kong very much back in business, I welcome more Australian companies and talents to join us, to capitalise on the strengths and advantages presented in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area as a whole in the new era of stability and prosperity.

My congratulations, once again, to AustCham on its landmark  $35^{\text{th}}$  anniversary.

(John KC LEE)

Chief Executive

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region