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## Trump Tariffs Take Effect Globally as Australia Maintains 10 Per Cent Rate

August 7, 2025

– Categories: *Breaking News*



The United States has officially implemented a wide-ranging set of tariffs under President Donald Trump’s trade policy, with Australia retaining a 10 per cent tariff rate. The move follows the expiration of a trade deal deadline, marking a significant escalation in global trade dynamics as nations either secure new agreements or face increased costs on exports to the US.

The tariffs, aimed at levelling the playing field for American industries, came into force after midnight on Thursday. While key allies such as the United Kingdom and the European Union bloc successfully negotiated arrangements to limit or avoid the increased tariffs, Australia has not yet finalised a similar deal. As it stands, Australian

exporters will continue to face a baseline 10 per cent tariff, although certain Australian goods have been granted exemptions. However, the US administration has indicated that this position may not remain fixed.

On his platform Truth Social, President Trump celebrated the activation of the tariffs, framing the move as a correction to longstanding imbalances in international trade. He wrote, “*RECIPROCAL TARIFFS TAKE EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT! BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, LARGELY FROM COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR MANY YEARS, LAUGHING ALL THE WAY, WILL START FLOWING INTO THE USA.*” He followed up shortly after with another message declaring, “*IT’S MIDNIGHT!!! BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TARIFFS ARE NOW FLOWING INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!*”

In a separate update, Trump confirmed the imposition of additional tariffs on India, citing its continued importation of oil from Russia as a key factor. The move aligns with the administration’s broader strategy of using trade policy to assert pressure on foreign governments and protect domestic economic interests.

Australia’s Trade Minister Don Farrell has reiterated the country’s commitment to advocating for the removal of the remaining tariffs. Speaking to the *Australian Financial Review* in an interview last Saturday, Farrell confirmed that Australia would continue pressing for zero tariffs, and revealed that he had extended an invitation to United States Trade Representative Howard Lutnick to visit Australia for further discussions.

Farrell acknowledged that the United States continues to hold a strong position in its trade relationship with Australia, but expressed hope that ongoing diplomatic engagement might lead to improved terms for Australian exporters. As negotiations continue, Australian businesses are being urged to closely monitor any developments that may impact market access and export costs.

The implementation of the tariffs marks a decisive moment in the evolving global trade landscape. While the United States has framed the move as necessary to counter unfair practices and protect domestic jobs, its ripple effects are already being felt by trading partners around the world, including Australia.