

# Australia aims to close trade talks by year-end

**Bloomberg**

Australia hopes to complete an agreement with India that will expand market access for Australian exporters by the end of the calendar year and before next year's election, Australia's Agriculture Minister Murray Watt said.

Watt and a delegation of agribusiness representatives visited India earlier this month to discuss improving market access for Australian producers under a proposed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, which would expand the par-

tial free trade pact that came into effect at the end of last year.

"We are starting to see Australian producers take advantage of those opportunities under the existing deal," Watt said in an interview. "But we are in the process of negotiating what we hope will be a broader deal."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sydney in May, where he held discussions with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese and hailed the fast-growing Indian diaspora in Australia for the improving bilateral relations.