

Dear Committee Secretariat,

I am writing to you to express my disgust with the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

This agreement will lock Australians out of job opportunities, erode industrial and public safety standards, and expose Australia to legal action that could cost millions.

This agreement allows an employer to take on a Chinese worker without first having to advertise for the job locally.

Even worse, a Chinese company with at least a 15 per cent stake in projects in Australia worth more than \$150 million can lower the training, salary, language and occupational requirements for its workforce.

At a time when unemployment is 6 per cent and youth unemployment is over 13 per cent, this preferential treatment for Chinese companies and overseas workers is unacceptable.

The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement also means Chinese workers in a range of high-risk trades will not have their skills tested before they come to Australia to work. This is dangerous. Electrical work is inherently dangerous, which is why we have stringent electrical training and safety standards in Australia. Eroding these standards could lead to accidents, injuries and deaths.

The agreement also allows Chinese companies to sue Australian governments for creating laws and policies that benefit Australians such as improving working conditions and wages, making power bills cheaper or protecting our environment from pollution.

Why is my country allowing itself to be sued for taking care of me?

You have a responsibility to ensure that free trade agreements are in the interests of all Australians. The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement is not in our interests and never will be while it contains provisions that undermine democracy, jobs and safety standards.

On my behalf, and that of all Australians present and future, please reject this agreement in its current form.

Please understand that this issue is one that has the capacity to change my vote at the next election.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Laws