



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### TRADE SUB-COMMITTEE

#### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with the United Kingdom

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Issue date: Friday, 4 August 2017

## **Agricultural and food industry bodies to discuss Brexit and UK trade**

How will Brexit impact on exports of Australian agricultural produce such as beef, lamb, dairy, sugar and other foods into the United Kingdom? At a hearing in Canberra on Monday, the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will have their say alongside British academics and business councils from Australia, the UK and Europe.

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from the AFGC, Department of Agriculture, NFF, Australian British Chamber of Commerce, German Australian Business Council, Australian Business in Europe (France) and the Australia-UK Chamber of Commerce at a public hearing on 7 August for its inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with the UK.

The sub-committee chaired by Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie will also hear from one of the UK's leading agricultural economists in Professor Alan Swinbank and another British specialist on trade issues in Professor Alan Winters from the UK Trade Policy Observatory. Professor Swinbank raised concerns that if the UK negotiates with the European Union to be "almost" in the Customs Union then it will severely limit its ability to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with Australia. Professor Winters cautions an FTA between Australia and the UK is likely to be "some way off and of only minor significance economically".

The German Australian Business Council supports an FTA between Australia and the UK but urges the Australian government to negotiate a comprehensive agreement with the EU first. ABIE (France) also submitted to sub-committee that the "EU will be incentivised to negotiate mutually beneficial terms with Australia prior to the finalisation of Brexit" in 2019.

**Public hearing details: 11:15am - 5:15pm, Monday 7 August, Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra**

This hearing will be streamed live at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live).

#### **Media enquiries:**

Senator Bridget McKenzie (Victoria), Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee of the JSCFADT - contact Senator McKenzie's Chief of Staff Russ Street phone: (02) 6277 3200 or email: [russ.street@aph.gov.au](mailto:russ.street@aph.gov.au)

**For background:**

The Committee Secretariat can be contacted on (02) 6277 2313, email [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au), and web: [www.aph.gov.au/jfadt](http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt).