



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Public Hearing

Issue date: 9 February 2018

Pacific Island Free Trade

A new free trade agreement between Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island nations will be examined at a public hearing on Monday by the federal parliament's [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#).

The Australian Government expects the PACER Plus free trade agreement to encourage economic growth and social stability in the Pacific region by freeing up trade and investment opportunities.

The Agreement is tailored to the particular barriers to economic growth experienced by Pacific Island countries, including small population size and isolation.

Committee Chair, [Mr Stuart Robert MP](#), said Pacific Island countries are amongst the world's most vulnerable economies.

"PACER Plus will afford Pacific Island countries the protection they need as they develop, while allowing them to benefit from the advantages of free trade," Mr Robert said.

The Committee will also examine a treaty allowing spent fuel from Australia's research nuclear reactor to be shipped to France for reprocessing.

Public hearing details:

11.10am – 1.00pm, Monday 12 February 2018

Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

11.10am: Reprocessing Nuclear Fuel - France

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

11.45am: PACER Plus

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

1.00pm: Close

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Media enquiries:

Hon Stuart Robert MP, Federal Member for Fadden
Chair Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Contact: Sam O'Connor - 0416 925 981



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For background information:

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

02 6277 4002

jsct@aph.gov.au

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