The Commonwealth's treaty-making process Submission 14 - Supplementary Submission



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## SUBMISSION TO TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Australia is a sovereign nation governed by the Will of the People, I wish to humbly submit the following:

That the output of all meetings that the Australian Government is a party to, is published in a timely manner after the closure of said meeting. The information included should be an honest and accurate record of the outcomes.

That the inclusion of Investor State Dispute Settlement clauses is in direct opposition to the democratic rights that each elector holds under the Australian Constitution and is not to be included in negotiations. There are agreements already in place signed by Australian Government in 1993, The "Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Hong Kong for the Promotion and Protection of Investments (Treaty)", contains an such Investor State Dispute Settlement Clause. The clause has been manipulated, using extremely devious methods never envisaged by the originators of the agreement, by the Philip Morris Asia (PMA), group.

The Phillip Morris Group have gone to extraordinary lengths to gain access to the agreement in order to pressure the Australian Government, some 13 years later, into rescinding, through the courts, the legally constituted decision to enforce plain packaging on cigarette packets. Allowing the inclusion of Investor State Dispute settlement in the Trans Pacific Partnership is in direct contravention of our Constitution can be challenged in the highest court of Australia.

The existing USA Australian agreement does not have Investor State Dispute Settlement clauses. This is the very reason Phillip Morris Asia (PMA) went to those extraordinary lengths to be able to sue the Australian people. These clauses were vehemently opposed at the time of the instigation of that agreement and were not included. There is no more reason for them to be included now in the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Governments of any country do not have a place in Commerce except to provide laws to enable business to take place. Governments do not have the right to actively interfere in the operation of business, that is a private matter for business. The fact the Investor State Dispute Settlements clause exist in a Trade agreements is an invitation for such interference and abuse by corrupt corporations as has been proved in the Phillip Morris case.

I humbly request that no such clause, including any words or intent purporting to be or to represent the intent of an Investor State Dispute Settlement be included in the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Vincent Tytler Moore

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