

Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth,
Committee Secretariat
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Dear Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth ,

In recognition of the Sovereignty , not ceded , by Aboriginal Torres Strait Peoples of Australia, I make the following submission to the Joint Select Committee on the following Terms of Reference :

"The Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth was established to inquire into and report on any measures to further boost Australia's trade and investment performance, including, but not limited to, barriers to trade; reduction of red tape and structural challenges and opportunities for the Australian community.

As part of its remit, and taking into consideration efforts to promote utilisation of Australia's North Asia Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), as well as future FTAs, the Committee will focus its inquiry on the experience of business in utilising Australia's existing FTAs including: New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Chile, the Association of South East Asian Nations and Malaysia. "

Any domestic Australian consideration of International Trade Treaties must take into relevant account the continuing claim by Aboriginal Torres Strait Community Peoples that Their Sovereignty has not been ceded and that therefore any International Trade arrangements must confront the structural challenges embedded by this Indigenous assertiveness.

Any report on "measures to further boost Australia's trade and investment performance, including, but not limited to, barriers to trade; reduction of red tape and opportunities for the Australian community" , must set out how this assertion and its related context in the Aboriginal Torres Strait Community has been consulted with in the preparation of such a report, and, given the inherent position of Aboriginal Torres Strait Traders, by what means the Joint Select Committee on Trade and Investment Growth findings propose to address the sought after involvement of the Torres Strait Aboriginal Community in removing barriers to trade, reducing red tape and increasing opportunities for the Torres Strait Aboriginal Community to grow Our trade and investment facilities.

Given the pre-existence of an assertion of Indigenous Sovereignty the "measures to further boost Australia's trade and investment performance" in relation to any proposed specific Aboriginal Torres Strait Community 'boosting' strategies must couch such strategies in terms of Recognizing the current efforts to re-establish broader historical Aboriginal Torres Strait inter-Nation-al trade and investment concepts and patterns.

This Inquiry's consideration of "efforts to promote utilisation of Australia's North Asia Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), as well as future FTAs" , must focus on the experience of Aboriginal Torres Strait Community businesses and how the special Sovereign contextual need within Our Community to utilise "Australia's existing FTAs including: New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Chile, the Association of South East Asian Nations and Malaysia" has historical and continuing contemporaneous legitimacy.

I am available to assist the Inquiry in the further work needed to report and consult on these issues.

THAN..X.,

Yours In Community,

Indigenous Community Member ,

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cc: Aboriginal Torres Strait Community

cc: Parliamentarians

cc: Trade and Investment Community

Sent from my iPad