



THE HON ANDREW ROBB AO MP

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Senator Chris Back  
Chair  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

13 OCT 2015

*Chris*  
Dear Senator Back

I refer to your letter of 25 September 2015 advising of the inquiry by the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee into the provisions of the *Customs Amendment (China-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2015* and the *Customs Tariff Amendment (China-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2015*, and inviting submissions.

I tabled the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) customs implementing bills in the House of Representatives on 16 September 2015. The Government is working towards entry into force of ChAFTA this year, subject to the completion of domestic processes by Australia and China, which of course includes early passage of the bills through the Senate.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) is the agency with policy responsibility for customs-related issues. I understand DIBP is making a submission to the committee's inquiry regarding the provisions of the bills.

Extensive information is already available to the committee from the Explanatory Memoranda to the bills, and the various documents that have already been provided to the Parliament on ChAFTA. Accordingly, I do not consider it necessary for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to make a submission to your inquiry. The Department is, of course, willing to provide the Committee with any information or advice on request.

Should you require additional information, the contact officer in DFAT is  
FTA Legal Issues and Advocacy Branch ( ).

Yours sincerely

Andrew Robb