



Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement under review

The costs and benefits of the proposed Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA) will be under review in Canberra this week when the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties conducts its first public hearing.

Japan is the world's third-largest economy with a population of over 127 million people and is Australia's second-largest export market, second-largest overall trading partner and third-largest source of foreign investment.

JAEPA is the result of seven years of negotiations and was signed during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia in April 2014. It is the first Economic Partnership Agreement that Japan has concluded with a major agricultural exporter, giving Australian industry and producers a real competitive advantage.

Although submissions to the Committee have been broadly supportive of JAEPA, concerns have been raised over the non-tariff barriers that remain in place.

Committee Chair Wyatt Roy said that the Committee recognises that JAEPA is an important milestone for Australia and Japan and will enhance the already strong bilateral relationship that the two countries enjoy.

"While JAEPA will provide greater market access to many Australian exporters, the Committee wishes to explore some of the issues raised in the submissions it has received and examine some of the technical aspects of the agreement with the responsible Government Departments."

Public Hearing: Monday 25 August 2014, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

- 11.10am Minerals Council of Australia**
- 11.40am Australian Food and Grocery Council**
- 12.05pm Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Department of Agriculture
Department of Industry**
- 1.00pm Close**

The hearing will be broadcast through: www.aph.gov.au/live

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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