



# Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Suite 7 Durban Court, Old Princes Hwy, Sutherland NSW 2232  
PO Box 589 Sutherland NSW 1499 | 02 9545 3077 | office@ssec.org.au  
www.ssec.org.au | ABN: 96 127 431 611

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The Committee Secretariat  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Email to: [fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fadt.sen@aph.gov.au)

## **Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)**

To whom it may concern

We wish to express the strongest opposition to the inclusion of Investor-State Dispute Settlement provisions in the Korea-Australian Free Trade Agreement.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre is most concerned that such provisions will remove the capacity of communities and governments to protect the integrity and health of local and regional environments. ISDS provisions put our natural places at risk of destruction by corporate operations, and they remove the right of citizens and their governments to prevent that damage. ISDS provisions give priority to corporate profit above the well-being of community and environment. The Centre's research into this matter reveals that the proposed 'safeguards' are ineffective.

Our research also tells us that other countries are refusing to sign such provisions into their free trade agreements.

SSEC understands that it is the job of our Australian governments to protect the people and environment of Australia. Signing free trade agreements with ISDS provisions removes the government's capacity to do so. They hand control of health and well-being to corporations whose only interest is profit. If ISDS provisions are signed into KAFTA, Australian citizens lose their democratic right to protect themselves. We urge the government to fulfil its responsibilities to Australian citizens and remove all ISDS provisions from free trade agreements.

Please note that SSEC supports the submission made by AFTINET on this matter.

Yours faithfully

Jenni Gormley  
Chairperson