

SUBMISSION 2 – Robin Murray

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House, Canberra
17-2-2016

jsct@aph.gov.au
To the Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

As an Australian citizen I am very concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). I think it will trade away my rights and the Australia's rights and laws to American and corporate interests. As a sufferer of Diabetes and asthma I am worried about a rise in Pharmaceutical prices due to the manipulations of overseas pharmaceutical companies. I am also concerned about exploitation of temporary migrant workers and their rights.

The TPP will have almost no economic benefits for Australia, because we already have free trade agreements with all but three of the Pacific Rim TPP countries. A World Bank study has estimated that it will result in a tiny 0.7% growth in the Australian economy after 15 years.

The TPP is not mainly about trade, but about restricting future governments from regulating in the public interest. The TPP allows the US to "set the rules for the region." But what benefits US corporate interests is not necessarily in the interests of most Australians.

The Productivity Commission and the ACCC have said that the TPP gives foreign investors special rights to sue governments over domestic laws, and also strengthens monopoly rights on medicines and copyright at the expense of consumers.

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The TPP allows foreign corporations to bypass domestic courts and sue governments over changes to domestic law in unfair international tribunals which have no independent judiciary, no precedents and no appeals. Cases against tobacco regulation can be excluded, but 'safeguards' for other health, environment, labour rights and public interest regulation are weak and will not prevent future cases.

The TPP locks in stronger monopoly rights for pharmaceutical companies which will lead to higher prices for medicines. Australia's law on costly biologic medicines will not change immediately. But there is a commitment to deliver up to 3 years of additional monopoly for biologic medicines, which could cost the PBS hundreds of

millions of dollars a year for each year of delay in availability of cheaper medicines. Copyright experts argue that the TPP locks in copyright monopolies for global media and IT companies which would restrict future governments from responding to consumer rights and changing technologies.

The TPP contains only weak labour rights and environmental standards which are not enforceable, and will not protect the rights of increased numbers of temporary migrant workers.

The TPP removes labour market testing for temporary migrant workers. This will expose more of these workers to exploitation as seen in 7-Eleven stores and other industries without testing if local workers are available.

The TPP is not in the public interest, and I urge you not to support the implementing legislation

Robin Murray
NSW