



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Amendment to the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement

Issue date: Thursday 20 July 2017

Alcohol and tobacco – the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement

The [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#) will discuss amendments to alcohol and tobacco labelling rules in the *Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement* (SAFTA) at a hearing in Melbourne tomorrow.

The Committee is reviewing the [proposed agreement](#) to amend SAFTA, which will incorporate changes previously included in the stalled Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Witnesses are expected to talk about changes to the Investor-State Dispute Settlement provision, which includes a ban on tobacco companies suing governments over plain tobacco packaging laws.

Witnesses will also discuss changes that will allow alcohol exporters to include nutritional information and health warnings on a ‘secondary label’ rather than the main label of wines and spirits.

Committee Chair [the Hon Stuart Robert MP](#) said that while the most of the benefits of SAFTA are not in dispute, participants to the inquiry have raised concerns about a handful of SAFTA changes.

“We are looking forward to hearing from a number of experts in the field to better understand their concerns about the proposed changes,” Mr Robert said.

The Committee will table its report on the proposed Agreement in the Parliament in August 2017.

Public Hearing details: 9:45am – 11:15am, Friday 21 July 2017, Meeting Room G6, 55 St Andrews Place, Melbourne

9.45 am Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET)

10.30 am Paula O’Brien (Senior Lecturer, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne)

Dr Deborah Gleeson (Lecturer, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University)

Professor Robin Room (Director of the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, La Trobe University)

Claire Wilkinson (Researcher, Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, La Trobe University)



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11.15 pm *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live in audio format at aph.gov.au/live.

Media enquiries:

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Chair Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
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For background:

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