



Chair: Mr Wyatt Roy MP

Examination of China Free Trade Agreement continues

The Treaties Committee will continue its round of public hearings to examine the costs and benefits of the proposed China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) this week.

The Committee will hold public hearings in Perth on Tuesday 25 August, Devonport in Tasmania on Thursday 27 August and in Melbourne on Friday 28 August.

China provides Australia’s largest agriculture and fisheries market and biggest export market for resources, energy and manufacturing. Chinese investment in Australia has grown strongly in recent years and the country is Australia’s largest services market as well.

The Agreement is expected to eliminate or significantly reduce tariffs on a wide range of Australian goods exports including beef, dairy, sheep meat, wine, horticulture and energy and resource products. It also delivers China’s best services commitments to date, including the provision of new or significantly improved market access for financial, legal, education and health and aged care services.

The Committee will hear from a wide range of witnesses across the country, including representatives from the seafood, wool and wine industries and unions. They will speak to academics and small business people as well as major umbrella groups.

Committee Chair, Mr Wyatt Roy MP, said that the China Free Trade Agreement has the potential to significantly impact on a large section of the Australian business community.

“The committee is interested in hearing from as many different sectors as possible,” he said.

Public hearing details:

25 August 2015	Perth	Legislative Assembly Committee Meeting Room, Parliament House (South Entrance), Harvest Terrace, Perth	9.30am-3.45pm
27 August 2015	Devonport	Centenary Court, Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre, 145-151 Rooke Street, Devonport	12.30pm-3.30pm
28 August 2015	Melbourne	Federation Room, Parliament House, Sprint Street, Melbourne	9.30am-4.30pm

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

Hearing programs, copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties

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

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