

Quintus-Bosz, Donna (REPS)

From: Cleary, Peter [Peter.Cleary@nwsalng.com]
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2008 4:53 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Cc: Manook, Michelle M.; DMS Emails - Corporate
Subject: Australia's Relationship with ASEAN

Submission No:.....	12
Date Received:.....	25/8/08
Secretary:.....	

Dear Mr Carter,

Thank you for your letter of 16th July inviting us to make a submission to the above enquiry chaired by Mr. Michael Danby MP.

As Australia's first and largest exporter of LNG into the Asian region we are very interested in all that can be done to improve relationships between Australia and countries in this region.

We export to Japan, Korea and China so our attention is more closely focused on Australia's activities with these nations than on those in the ASEAN pact. We do note that some ASEAN nations do have plans to import LNG namely Thailand and Singapore and it is possible that others will one day follow. We also note that within ASEAN there are three countries that also export LNG into the region, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei so it is important to us that actions by the Australian government or any of the ASEAN governments do not restrict or negatively impact our ability to trade or compete for opportunities in the key markets.

Our submission to the committee is as follows:

- FTA's should remain true to their title and not unwittingly impose obligations for unique treatment on trade. For example a note in a FTA that recognises a special relationship with respect to the trade in resources could imply preference to a nation.
- For many years there has been healthy competition for markets among LNG exporting nations in the region. We suggest that this should continue to be the framework so would welcome continue Australian engagement with ASEAN to ensure this remains valid.

with regards

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