



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Trade Sub-Committee, Hon Bruce Baird MP, Chairman

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 25 March 2004

Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with the Gulf States

First public hearing: Monday 29 March 2004 Canberra

As part of its inquiry into **Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with the Gulf States**, the Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade will hold the first of four public hearings this coming Monday 29 March in Canberra.

The inquiry was established to examine and report on ways to expand Australia's trade and investment relationship with the economies of the Gulf States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iran), paying particular attention to:

- The nature of Australia's existing trade and investment relationships with the region;
- Likely future trends in these relationships; and
- The role of Government, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Austrade and the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), in identifying and assisting Australian companies to maximise opportunities in the Gulf States as they emerge.

Following the Canberra hearing, further hearings will be held in Sydney and Melbourne—both on 7 April—and a final hearing will be held in June (details to be advised).

Public hearings in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne

When: Monday 29 March

Where: Canberra — Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House

9.30am Austrade
10.30am Department of Education, Science and Training
11.15am Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11.45am Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

When: Wednesday 7 April

Where: Sydney — Commonwealth Parliament Offices, Level 11 Meeting Room, 56-70 Phillip Street, Sydney

8.30am IDP Education Australia
9.00am Export Finance and Insurance Corporation
9.30am Promesse

When: Wednesday 7 April

Where: Melbourne — Meeting Room 2 State Parliamentary Offices, Level 8, 35 Spring Street

2.30pm Bayside Personnel
3.00pm ICS
3.30pm Abdul Ayan

For media comment: Bruce Baird, Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee on (02) 6277 4814 (Parliament House) or (02) 9525 8200 (electorate).

For background information and general enquiries please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4624 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfact/gulfstates/pgIndex.htm