



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
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New Trade Sub-Committee Inquiry

Trade and Investment Relations with North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia)

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade today announced it is conducting an inquiry into expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with the North African states of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

The Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, the Hon Bruce Baird MP stated "there is great potential for Australian businesses in the region. The Committee is keen to examine these opportunities and the different ways in which the government can enhance them."

The inquiry will make particular reference to:

- the nature of Australia's existing trade and investment relationships with the region
- likely future trends in these relationships
- the role of the government, particularly that of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade, in identifying and assisting Australian companies to maximise opportunities in North Africa as they emerge.

Interested businesses, organisations and individuals are invited to make written submissions to the inquiry by **Friday, 5 August 2005**. The Sub-Committee can receive submissions on a commercial-in-confidence basis if necessary to protect the interests of businesses operating in these markets. If you intend to make a submission, please also send an expression of interest.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair,
the Hon Bruce Baird MP, on (02) 9525 8200 (electorate office).

For all other inquiries, including the full terms of reference, please contact the
Trade Sub-Committee Secretary, Kate Burton, by phone on (02) 6277 4628, via email at
jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the Inquiry website at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>