



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

Chair: Hon Bruce Baird MP
Deputy: Hon Warren Snowden MP

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 11 May 2006

Telstra talks to Trade Committee on trans-Tasman telecommunications

Telstra will put its views on Australia-New Zealand telecommunications policy at a round table discussion with the Australia New Zealand Business Council, Treasury, and Parliament's Trade Committee on Friday 12 May in Canberra.

This debate will open the Committee's first public hearing on Australia's trade and investment relations with New Zealand.

The Australia New Zealand Business Council, Treasury, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also meet individually with the Committee at the hearing.

The hearing and round table will take place at 1pm until 4:30pm on Friday 12 May 2006:
Committee Room 2S1, Parliament House, Canberra

The Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, Bruce Baird, said the Committee had already received comments from both sides of the Tasman.

"The Closer Economic Relations (CER) arrangements are a long-standing and successful arrangement which is continuing to evolve," Mr Baird said. "The Committee is taking stock of the achievements thus far, and wants to see where and how they can be expanded and improved."

"It wants to hear more on the nature of Australia's existing trade and investment; likely future trends in these relationships; and complementary policy approaches by the two governments."

The Committee is also seeking comment on the role of Government in identifying and assisting Australian companies to maximise opportunities under CER.

Submissions may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

All paper-based submissions should be accompanied by an electronic version on disk and addressed to:
Trade Sub-Committee
R-1-120, Parliament House,
PO Box 6021
Canberra ACT 2600

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Bruce Baird (Member for Cook, NSW), on (02) 9525 8200 (electorate office) or (02) 6277 4814 (Parliament House).

Submissions to the Committee are on its website <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/>

For all other inquiries, including the full terms of reference, please contact the Trade Sub-Committee Secretary 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/>