



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 20 March
2007

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

Australian Dairy Industry Council to address Trade Committee on Trade with Mexico and Region

The Australian Dairy Industry Council will address the Trade Sub-Committee on Wednesday 21 March in Canberra.

This will be the Trade Committee's third public hearing for its inquiry into Australia's trade with Mexico and the Region.

The Deputy Chair of the Trade Committee the Hon Warren Snowdon MP said that:

"Australian dairy exports to Mexico were worth over \$49 million in 2005 and in light of this, the Trade Committee feel that it is important to listen to the Australian Dairy Industry Council in order to gain a better understanding of this market, which could provide Australia with many more trade opportunities into the future".

In 2005, trade with Mexico was worth \$1.6 billion and trade in services another \$59 million.

The countries of the region comprise Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Australian exports to the region include dairy products, agricultural inputs, steel and other intermediate products. There are indications that commercial opportunities are starting to grow and diversify into the services sector.

The hearing will begin at 11.15 am in Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday 21 March 2007, concluding at 12.00 pm

For media comment, please contact the Committee Deputy Chair, Hon Warren Snowdon (Member for Lingiari, NT), on (02) 6277 4520 (Parliament House).

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>