



Ford Australia to appear before Economics Committee manufacturing inquiry

Ford Australia, Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors, and RMIT University will appear before the House of Representatives Economics Committee in Melbourne next week for its new inquiry into the state of the manufacturing industry now and beyond the current resources boom.

The committee's inquiry will focus on the positioning of the manufacturing industry and the interdependency of the allied goods and services sectors in light of global competitive challenges. The terms of reference for the inquiry, referred by the Treasurer Peter Costello, are:

The state and future directions of Australia's manufactured export and import competing base, focusing on, but not limited to:

- **Australia's dominance in commodities exports and the impacts of this on the economy following the resources boom;**
- **the state of the country's manufacturing sector (and the goods and associated services) including opportunities and challenges from the expansion in global trade (in particular by China); and**
- **policies for realising these opportunities.**

The committee has authorised 30 submissions received from individuals, manufacturing organisations, peak associations, training institutions, unions and government departments.

The Chair of the House Economics Committee, Bruce Baird, said "Our manufacturing sector has been in relative decline over the last 40 years, however, in the background of a recent mining boom and global competitive pressures our manufacturing sector continues to be a strong sector of the economy".

"This inquiry will consider the industry's strengths and challenges and look at approaches to improve the future of this important sector of the Australian economy" Mr Baird said.

Public hearing - Monday 28 August 2006 Committee Room K, Victorian Parliament House, Melbourne

- **9.00am Ford Motor Company of Australia Ltd**
- **9.45am RMIT University**
- **10.45am Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy**
- **11.30am Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering**
- **1.15pm Geelong Manufacturing Council**
- **2.00pm Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors**

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chairman, Hon Bruce Baird MP on (02) 9525 8200 or 0418 611 668 (mobile).

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4209, email efpa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit online from the Committee's website <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa/manufacturing/index.htm>