



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Trade Sub-Committee

Issued: 16 August 2005

Chair: Hon Bruce Baird, MP

Review of Australia's free trade agreements

Friday 19 August, Canberra

The Trade Sub-Committee of Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade Committee will hold a public hearing this Friday as part of the Committee's review of Australia's free trade agreements.

The Sub-Committee, chaired by Bruce Baird (Member for Cook, NSW), will hold a roundtable discussion with representatives from government, business, industry, unions and trade experts. Some of the organisations being represented at the hearing are Austrade, Australian Customs Service, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Council of Trade Unions, Business Council of Australia and National Farmers Federation.

The review will focus on the operation of the free trade agreements with Singapore, Thailand and the United States, with particular reference to:

- business experience of the free trade agreements, in particular participation in negotiations and support from Australian agencies in-country;
- government and business perspectives on what works well and what could be improved in the operation of the agreements; and
- issues to consider for future free trade agreements.

Hearing details – Review of Australia's free trade agreements

Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

Session 1: Negotiations and consultations – what went well, what didn't

9.00am – 9.30am

Session 2: FTAs in operation: the impact on trade and business and industry

9.30am – 10.30am

Session 3: Lessons for future FTAs

10.45am – 12pm

Contact details

For media comment: Hon Bruce Baird, MP, Trade Sub-Committee Chair on: (02) 6277 4814.

For further information about the hearings, including the full program:

Kate Burton, Secretariat: (02) 6277 4628, or visit the committee website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/ftas/index.htm>