



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 13 March 2012

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Farmers and agencies have their say on North Asia trade

The National Farmers' Federation, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and key government agencies will join the discussion on Australia's trade and investment relations with Japan and the Republic of Korea at two public hearings in Canberra.

Trade between Australia and the north Asian giants is worth more than \$78 billion annually, making Japan and South Korea Australia's second and fourth largest trading partners respectively.

The chair of the Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Ms Janelle Saffin, said the inquiry is important for Australia's economic future.

"It is important for Australia's productivity to ensure that we build on our already strong trading partnerships with these two countries and look at the role of the government in identifying new opportunities and assisting Australian companies to access existing and potential opportunities," Ms Saffin said.

Details of the public hearings are as follows:

Wednesday, 14 March 2012

11.00am to 12.00pm

Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

11.00am Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade

Monday, 19 March 2012

9.45 am to 11.15 am

Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

9.45am Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

10.30am National Farmers' Federation

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Further information about the Sub-Committee's inquiry is available at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

Proceedings will be broadcast (audio only) on:

http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

There is still an opportunity to contribute to this inquiry as the Sub-Committee will continue to receive submissions.

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Ms Janelle Saffin on (02) 6621 9909 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4323 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au.