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Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: jsct@aph.gov.au

Dear Members,

SINGAPORE AUSTRALIA FREED TRADE AGREEMENT

Set out below are my comments in regard to the abovementioned agreement:

1. *The process is undemocratic*
The public has not had the opportunity to consult with government prior to finalisation of negotiations.

Neither will your review be completed for public comment or parliamentary scrutiny before legislation is to be put before parliament.
2. *The "negative list" model places undue restrictions on future governments to make policy decisions*
Anything that impacts on future local, state and federal governments must be not be included in this Agreement. The Agreement must provide clarity of wording and intent on all matters to which it relates.
3. *All essential services and investment must remain the responsibility of governments, and in total must be excluded from the Agreement, as should any restrictions on the rights of government to support local suppliers for provision of goods and services*
4. *Taxpayers should be protected from transnational corporations suing local, state or our federal government if those governments make decisions in the national interest that are not in the interests of the corporation.*

If trade agreements are to be entered into, they should be multi-lateral trade agreements, open to scrutiny by the public and only with regard to the trading of goods. The current practice of trading away the ability of our governments to provide services to the community should be excluded.

Yours faithfully,



LEONIE STUBBS