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Free Trade Agreement inquiry comes to Adelaide

The impact of a Free Trade Agreement with the United States on the wine industry is expected to be canvassed in Adelaide today.

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia will be among the groups appearing before a Federal Parliamentary inquiry into the proposed Agreement.

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by South Australia's Member for Boothby, Andrew Southcott, is holding public hearings on the FTA.

"We are giving South Australians the opportunity to have their say on what may be our most important trade deal in at least a generation," Dr Southcott said.

"At least 140 submissions have been accepted and more are expected to come in as the inquiry progresses. Public hearings are now being held around Australia and our Committee is expecting to report back to Parliament on June 23.

"The Free Trade Agreement would be extremely important for local industries such as the automotive, wine, seafood and dairy sectors. We are looking forward to hearing from their industry bodies at public hearings in Adelaide and other capitals."

The timetable for the public hearings in Adelaide is:

Time	Witness
9.00 am	Winemakers' Federation of Australia
10.00 am	Institute for International Business, Economics & Law
11.00 am	Doctors for the Environment Australia (Adelaide submission)

The hearings will be held at the Old Chamber Room, Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide and will be open to the public and media.

Copies of FTA submissions, timetables, and transcripts can be found at:
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/usafra