



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 5 March 2010

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

New Zealand High Commission to discuss trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America

Federal parliament's Trade Sub-Committee will hear from the New Zealand High Commission next Wednesday (10 March) for its inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, Janelle Saffin, welcomed the opportunity to hear from the New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner because "the important place that New Zealand holds was underlined recently with the signing of Australia's largest Free Trade Agreement - between Australia, New Zealand and the countries of the ASEAN group".

"The aim of the inquiry is to find ways to further expand Australia's trade and investment opportunities in the regions included in the terms of reference. The countries of these regions already account for three-quarters of Australia's total trade."

The Closer Economic Relations treaty with New Zealand is the most comprehensive agreement that Australia has signed. It is widely seen as an example of what can be achieved in economic agreements between nations. When combined with the importance of the joint agreement reached with ASEAN, it makes this hearing one of the most important parts of the inquiry.

Ms Saffin continued: "as the world financial crisis is now abating, it becomes all the more important to grasp new opportunities to develop our trade and investment relations. The Sub-Committee will be seeking to put some solid recommendations to the Government on ways to achieve those goals. Our already close relationship with New Zealand is obviously a good place to begin".

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from the **NZ Deputy High Commissioner on Wednesday, 10 March 2010, from 11am** until about **12:15pm** in **Committee Room 1R2**, at Parliament House, Canberra.

This hearing will be webcast on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For all inquiries: please contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>