



Attention: National media

Public hearings set to start on US Free Trade Agreement

Public hearings will commence next Monday (19 April) in a parliamentary inquiry on the proposed Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States.

Two full weeks have been set aside for the public hearings before Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT).

Public submissions to the inquiry closed today, although the Committee will accept late submissions. Ideally these should be received before public hearings commence to assist with finalising schedules for the hearings.

The hearings will be open to the public. A timetable can be found at the JSCOT website: www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/.

Copies of submissions and transcripts are also expected to be made public (via the JSCOT website) after they have been accepted and authorised by the Committee.

The Committee is looking forward to receiving a strong cross-section of submissions from a range of industry sectors and the public.

This inquiry will play an important part in allowing the public to have their say on the proposed AUSFTA.

JSCOT includes eight representatives from the Liberal Party, six from the Labor Party, one from the National Party and one Democrat. The Committee is expecting to report back to Parliament by 23 June.

Andrew Southcott is Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

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