

AUSTA

Submission No: 207

-----Original Message-----

>From: Hovergo [<mailto:hovergo@net-tech.com.au>]

>Sent: Tuesday, 4 May 2004 8:26 AM

>To: FTA, Committee (SEN)

>Subject: US-Australia Free Trade Agreement

>
>

>To the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reference on the Australia
>- United States of America Free Trade Agreement.

>

>I draw your attention to submissions from:

- > Brendan Scott (being submission number 81)
- > Cybersource Pty Limited (being submission number 85)
- > CAUL (being submission number 115)
- > ALIA (being submission number 142)

>

>And to comments below.

>

>Having read and being in full agreement with the submissions I urge you
>to please be aware of the provisions in Chapter 17 and of the
>consequences of disregarding community concerns.

>

>

>The Australian economy is increasingly dependant on its information
>industries, and is in the forefront of much of the emerging
>technologies that countries like the US is so dependent upon.

>

>It is a grave concern that FTA will shackle Australian industries with
>outdated approaches to law at a time when the information market is
>becoming increasingly globalised and internationally competitive.

>

>In order to effectively continue our leadership role in this sector
>(for example, many leading open source developers are based in
>Australia), it is imperative that we continue to provide an appropriate
>and up-to-date legal environment that actively supports the healthy and
>rapid development of information industries.

>

>In other words, Australia is and always has been a leader, and it is
>imperitive that we remain so.

>

>There is no need for undue haste in finalising national / international
>agreements therefore the Free Trade Agreement should be opposed in its
>current form, until appropriate revisions are made on intellectual
>property/copyright and legal issues.

>

>I am particularly adverse to the threat of Australian IT and industry
>in general, becoming increasingly 'locked in' to monopolistic,

RECEIVED
20 MAY 2004

BY:

>proprietary, outdated, unsecure, practices when more progressive
>global alternatives do now provide far more flexible servicibility.

>

>It is unwise to state that the FTA will not dramatically change the
>status quo, until the status quo is tried under US legal systems we
>simply will not know the consequences, throwing caution to the wind
>for future generations is of concern. Sold for thirty Pieces of silver
>is quite evident when discussion revolves around how much value to
>Australia.

>

>It is similarly unwise to state, as per latest media reports that the
>FTA will increase Australian income by 6 -9 billion dollars, when no
>account has been made of the legal situation and attendant costs to
>Australian industry. No account is taken of the value or amount of this
>"possible" income returning to the originating multinational by way of
>profits and shares.

>

>Any value is to particular sectors in particular the drug and the rural
>supply (fertiliser and equipment) industries, which are already
>multinational.

>

>Please give due consideration to the actual effects and not the
>illusionary effect.

>

>

>Roger McDonald
>Port Welshpool. Victoria

>