



Inquiry into the state of Australia's manufacturing industry now and beyond the resources boom

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will examine issues associated with the manufacturing export and import competing sector now and beyond the current mining commodities boom.

Australia's resources boom is now in its third year. Some economists are predicting a foreseeable end to the boom which has seen high commodity prices and favourable terms of trade. It is therefore prudent to consider the state of Australia's non-commodity import and export sectors, in particular manufacturing.

The Chair of the House Economics Committee, Bruce Baird, said: "Australia can not ride the resources wave indefinitely - we must also be well placed to compete globally in non-commodity industries, including our manufactured export and import base".

"Whilst Australia's manufacturing sector has declined in relative terms over the past forty years it remains an important segment of Australia's non-commodities base employing approximately 1.3 million Australians," Mr Baird said.

The committee's inquiry will focus on the positioning of the manufacturing industry and the interdependency of the allied goods and services sectors in light of global competitive challenges. The terms of reference for the inquiry, referred by the Treasurer, the Hon Peter Costello MP, are:

The state and future directions of Australia's manufactured export and import competing base, focusing on, but not limited to:

- **Australia's dominance in commodities exports and the impacts of this on the economy following the resources boom;**
- **the state of the country's manufacturing sector (and the goods and associated services) including opportunities and challenges from the expansion in global trade (in particular by China); and**
- **policies for realising these opportunities.**

The inquiry is expected to take the committee to manufacturing hubs across Australia to gather views from stakeholders and the community. The committee is keen to hear from industry, peak associations, academia, government departments and individuals. **The committee will accept submissions, preferably by email, until Friday, 21 July 2006.**

Further details about the inquiry, including how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4209 or emailing efpa.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chairman, Hon Bruce Baird MP on (02) 9525 8200 or 0418 611 668 (mobile).

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4209, email efpa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit online from the Committee's website <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa/index.htm>