



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA ALERT**  
Issued: 31 October 2006

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade *Chair: Senator Alan Ferguson*

## Federal departments to brief committee on Australia's growing relations with India

How to strengthen Australia's growing relationship with India will be discussed when federal government departments appear before Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade at a public hearing in Canberra this Friday (3 November).

The Committee will also receive evidence from, Neville Roach, the former chairman of the Australia-India Business Council as part of its review. The Committee has already heard from Australian companies such as BHP Billiton, Qantas and the National Australia Bank for its inquiry into Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power.

The Committee will be examining the extent of the political, strategic and economic relationship between the two countries, with particular focus on the role the Australian government plays in strengthening the relationship.

Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson, said "India is gaining a lot of attention from world governments as well as business at the moment. Strong government links can be the foundation for a flourishing Australia-India relationship."

"This public hearing will allow the Committee to discuss Australia's activities in India with representatives from a wide range of government departments. I expect that the insights provided by departments such as Foreign Affairs and Trade, Austrade and Industry, Tourism and Resources will help to clarify our past successes and identify future opportunities."

The Committee will also explore the role the Australia-India Business Council plays in promoting business links between Australia and India.

Submissions received by the Committee and transcripts of the public hearings are available on the Committee's website. This hearing will also be broadcast live on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/> or on HMS channel 9

### Program for Public Hearing, Friday 3 November

Parliament House, Canberra, Room **2R1**

<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Department of Education, Science and Training</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</b>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources</b>
<b>12:10 pm</b>	<b>AusTrade</b>
<b>1:30 pm</b>	<b>AusAID</b>
<b>2:10 pm</b>	<b>Department of Defence</b>
<b>2:50 pm</b>	<b>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs</b>
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>Mr Neville Roach</b>

**For media inquiries**, contact the Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson, on 02 6277 3115 or 08 8237 7180.

**For all other inquiries**, contact the Committee Secretary, Margot Kerley, on 02 6277 4629 or visit the committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/india2006/index.htm>