



Appendix A – Additional Comments by Hon Dick Adams MP

The undersigned member of the Treaties Committee believes the time has been reached where the treaty making of the Government is starting to impinge on the federal system of government in Australia.

I believe that a free trade agreement with Singapore incorporates new clauses that could impose big costs and major changes to our State Government's operations.

I would cite the Investment State Dispute Settlement Provisions that appeared in the NAFTA agreement. This is a new concept for an economy as advanced and robust as Singapore's. I am conscious of the flow-on implications of this treaty to future treaty action. The evidence from the Senate estimates committee indicates this to be so.

Local government, I believe, has not had an opportunity to discuss this matter, though this treaty could have major implications.

I recommend that the Treaties Committee hold a full inquiry into this treaty regarding its risk to Australia – the winners and losers.

I also recommend that the Government not go forward with this treaty unless each of the States consent in writing to the legal liability imposed by the Investor State clause in the agreement.

I believe that the positive list approach is a more open approach and gives those affected something to look at and to react to, as opposed to the negative

list approach which is open to people being caught out by not understanding what is agreed to.

Hon Dick Adams MP