

4 March 2003.
Submission No: 5

The Joint Standing Commission
on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T.

RECEIVED
28 APR 2003
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23.04.03

Dear Commissioners,

Re. Submission on Singapore - Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Please consider the following points:-

1. There is insufficient publicity and time allowed for public and community discussion on this matter. Democratic rights are thereby diminished.
2. A positive list of investments and services to be included in a trade agreement can be added to later by mutual consent. A list of excluded items takes account only of present needs, and by its very nature cannot cover future requirements, discoveries, developments and changes in government policy. A review period of one year is hardly satisfactory. Australian states have their own constitutions and powers which must be respected.
3. Corporations are not democratically elected and should not have power to change Australian laws, which should take precedence over trade agreements if a reasonable compromise cannot be reached. Any compensation payable should relate to losses incurred, not to failure to realize future gains.
4. Government procurement policies should not be changed to remove preference to Australian contractors.

Yours truly,
Manion Woolf