



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill under scrutiny

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has commenced an inquiry into the international implications of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011.

The Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill aims to reduce the harmful environmental, social and economic impacts of illegal logging by restricting the importation and sale of illegally logged timber products in Australia.

Under the bill, it will be illegal to import illegally logged timber or to process illegally logged raw logs and both importers and processors will be required to comply with due diligence requirements.

In addition, importers will be required to provide declarations, at the time of import, to the Customs Minister about the due diligence they have undertaken.

Submissions are invited from interested organisations and individuals focussing specifically on the following terms of reference:

Concern over the international implications of the bill which have been expressed by Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in their submissions to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee inquiry.

(House of Representatives Selection Committee, Report No. 49)

The Senate Committee's report, its submissions and background information about its previous inquiries into the bill are available at the following link:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=rrat_ctte/logging_2011/index.htm.

Submissions addressing the above terms of reference should be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au no later than **Wednesday, 2 May 2012**.

Further information about the Sub-Committee's inquiry is available at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>.

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Ms Janelle Saffin on (02) 6621 9909 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4323 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2313** or via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au.