

Solomon D. Trujillo
Chief Executive Officer



Telstra

SUBMISSION No.11

TT 16 March 2009

14 April 2009

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Suite R1-109
Parliament House
PO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Brown

Telstra welcomes the Australian Government's signing of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA). It represents a significant development in improving trade opportunities in ASEAN markets.

The new measures that improve the transparency of regulatory decision-making, as well as a number of telecommunication specific commitments will improve regulatory certainty for Telstra's operations in ASEAN. Furthermore, the establishment of a fixed timeframe in which all ASEAN countries will comply with these commitments is a good outcome.

Although the FTA is a positive outcome for Australia, there are still many restrictions on doing business in ASEAN countries. By contrast, Australia's telecoms market has been open to foreign competitors for over a decade. Consumers and businesses benefit from vigorous competition between many of the world's leading telecom operators, here in Australia.

Telstra commends the Government, and in particular the Minister for Trade, on the AANZFTA outcomes. The company looks forward to future iterations of the AANZFTA and other trade agreements to lead to greater openness in international telecommunication markets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sol Trujillo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Solomon D. Trujillo
Chief Executive Officer