



Second public hearing on controversial anti-counterfeiting treaty

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will conduct a second public hearing into the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in Canberra on Friday 23 March.

The ACTA has become increasingly controversial, with significant public protests in both the US and Europe, particularly with regard to restrictions the treaty is perceived to place on information exchange over the Internet.

The agreement is designed to create robust Intellectual Property (IP) enforcement standards. These standards are aimed at reducing the international trade in goods infringing IP, particularly in counterfeit trademarks and pirated copyright products.

Supporters of the ACTA consider to it be an important initiative, as existing IP enforcement standards in the World Trade Organisation have been insufficient to restrict the international trade in counterfeit and pirated materials, particularly in the digital era. The ACTA will provide a mechanism for member countries to work cooperatively with each other to achieve effective IP enforcement.

Committee chair, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, said the second public hearing is being conducted so that the committee can gather as much information and perspectives as possible, given that it has inspired such a level of protest.

"The committee understands that this is a controversial treaty nationally and internationally and is interested in hearing all points of view", Mr Thomson said.

Public Hearing: Friday 23 March 2012, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra — All welcome

- 9:00am** **Alphapharm**
- 9:30am** **Professor Kimberlee Weatherall**
- 10:00am** **Dr Matthew Rimmer**
- 10:30am** **Dr Hazel Moir**
- 11:00am** **Ms Anna George**

The hearing will be broadcast through http://www.apf.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

Copies of the *National Interest Analysis* and treaty texts are available under Treaties tabled on 21 November 2011 at: <http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm>.

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@apf.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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