

**From:** The Freestone Family [wychwood@lisp.com.au]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 3 May 2003 8:57 AM  
**To:** Committee, Treaties (REPS)  
**Subject:** Singapore FTA

TT 4 March 2003  
Submission No:.....18.....

Dear Sir,

I would like to voice my disapproval of the proposed negotiations around a Free Trade Agreement with Singapore.

This and other such agreements have the potential to seriously affect many Australians in a VERY NEGATIVE MANNER.

The fact that such negotiations are so wide-ranging in their ramifications means that they should be openly debated in the right and proper forum, the Australian Parliament. This would also mean that the people of Australia would be given the opportunity to enter into the debate and understand what their elected representatives have planned for the economic future of this nation.

Having little time available to me has meant that this submission is brief and not widely researched on my part, BUT the information available to me on this issue causes me great concern for the continuing autonomy of our nation and its institutions and industries. The effect on government-provided services (including but not limited to education and health) at all levels of government appears to be significant and nearly all negative.

In line with the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network and as one who has a concern for our national future and autonomy, I would firmly encourage a far more transparent and democratic approach to the whole issue of trade negotiations.

Yours sincerely,  
(The Rev'd)  
Christopher D.M.Freestone  
"Wychwood"  
Newbridge 2795  
(02) 6368 1005

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