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AUSFTA Submission No:211.....
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**Australian Government****Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

26 May 2004

Julia Morris
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Fax: (02) 62772219
Covering letter plus 3 pages

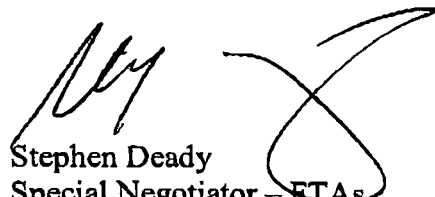
Dear Ms Morris

At the public hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties on 14 May 2004, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was asked to provide information to the members of the Committee on consultations during the negotiations for the Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement with Australia's cultural, audiovisual and entertainment sectors in relation to Australia's local content requirements in the audiovisual sector (page TR 81 of the Proof Committee Hansard refers).

I am pleased to provide this information herewith. **Attachment A** lists the dates and locations of consultations with Australia's cultural sector, as well as additional briefings provided to the sector. **Attachment B** lists the organisations that were routinely invited to attend the consultations organized by DFAT. In addition to these consultations, the negotiating team also held meetings with individual organizations from the audiovisual and film sector, as well as having frequent contact by telephone or email.

I would like to note that many of these organisations also participated in separate consultations on issues related to the chapters of AUSFTA on Intellectual Property and Electronic Commerce.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Deady
Special Negotiator – FTAs
Office of Trade Negotiations

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ATTACHMENT A**Consultations with Australia's cultural, audiovisual and entertainment sectors on the Australia – United States FTA**

Date	Location	Organisations	Officials involved
1 May 2003	Canberra	Services and Investment stakeholders including cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials
25 June 2003	Canberra	Representatives from a range of cultural organisations	Minister for Trade, Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials
3 July 2003	Canberra	Services and Investment stakeholders including cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials
7 July 2003	Melbourne	Representatives from the film and TV sector including Actors Equity, Free to Be Australian group and Victorian Arts Centre	Stephen Deady
15 July 2003	Sydney	Representatives from film and television sector	Minister for Trade, Minister for the Arts and Sport and Stephen Deady
20 August 2003	Canberra	Representatives from a range of cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT and DCITA officials
12 September 2003	Canberra	Services and Investment stakeholders including cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials
7 November 2003	Canberra	Representatives from a range of cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials
20 November 2003	Melbourne	Representatives from a range of cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT and DCITA officials

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22 December 2003	Teleconference	Representatives from a range of cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT and DCITA officials
18 March 2004	Canberra	Representatives from a range of cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials
6 April 2004	Canberra	Services and Investment stakeholders including cultural organisations	Stephen Deady and other DFAT officials

Additional briefing provided to the cultural sector

29 January 2003	Sydney	Roundtable discussion with organisations representing the Australian Coalition for Cultural Diversity	Milton Church and other DFAT and DCITA officials
7 May 2003	Melbourne	Participation in a panel organised by the Australian Film Commission for members of the film and TV sector	Stephen Deady
8 May 2003	Sydney	Participation in a panel on AUSFTA organised by the Australian Film Commission for members of the film and TV sector	Milton Church

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ATTACHMENT B

During the negotiation of the Australia – United States FTA, the following organisations from the cultural, entertainment and audiovisual sectors were invited to participate in consultations:

Australian Film Commission

Film Finance Corporation Australia

AusFILM

Australia Council for the Arts

Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance

Screen Producers Association of Australia

Australian Screen Directors Association

Australian Writers' Guild

Australian Society of Authors

Music Council of Australia

Australian Broadcasting Authority

Commercial Television Australia

Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association

Fox Studios Australia

Roadshow Films