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From: Colin Cook [SMTP:sisi@mullum.com.au]
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2000 12:56 PM
To: jsct@aph.gov.au
Subject: Australia and the WTO

Sirs,

For some time now we have been very concerned at the way treaties with the WTO can circumscribe the power of the Australian government to act in the true and long term interests of the Australian people. We find it particularly dangerous that the Government of today can enter into treaties that will preclude future governments acting in the best interests of future generations without the possibility of being taken to court by some vast global corporation for some 'damage' inflicted upon them. Such damage - or curtailment of profit opportunities - may well be necessary if the Government of the day is to act in the true and proper interests of the Australian people.

We believe that there should be a series of local - not just regional - seminars at which the impact that WTO propositions might be examined - examined with particular reference to the social, employment, cultural and environmental interests of the local community.

Another concern is the way in which governments have given the WTO a legal

framework, systems and resources that enable it to act very rapidly to impose sanctions for trade matters when the same 'rapid response' time has not been built into international arrangements concerned with human rights and environmental needs.

Yours faithfully, Carol and Colin Cook, 3, Bannister Court, Bangalow, 2479.