



Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Government of Western Australia

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BY: Gillian Gould

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Submission No: ... 1 .....

Ms Gillian Gould  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gould

I refer to the letter, dated 8 December 2004, from the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties to the Premier of Western Australia regarding treaties tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament on 7 December 2004. The following brief comments are submitted for the consideration of the Committee.

1. *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA Treaty)*
  - It is noted that, in 2002, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department confirmed that the PGRFA Treaty will preserve domestic legislative regimes and that the treaty can be effected through existing State and Territory legislation.
  - Western Australia supports ratification of the PGRFA Treaty. This will enable Australia to attend the treaty's Governing Body meetings and influence the treaty's operational and implementation requirements.
  - It is understood that, over the past two years, certain industry groups and some States have expressed reservations about the capacity to the Australian Plant Genetic Resource Centres to meet obligations under the PGRFA Treaty. It is, therefore, recommended that the Commonwealth continue to negotiate with the States, Territories, industry and other stakeholders to resolve operational, capacity, resourcing and other issues surrounding the Australian Plant Genetic Resource Centres.
  - It is also recommended that the Commonwealth continue to involve the States and Territories closely in the development of the PGRFA Treaty's Standard Material Transfer Agreements and domestic compliance regimes.

2. *United Nations Convention against Corruption*

With respect to Annexure A of the National Interest Analysis (Consultation with the States and Territories), Western Australia appreciates the effort made by the Commonwealth to consult with the States and Territories on this treaty. As it is not always practical to send a representative from Western Australia to Canberra for a short meeting (points 5, 6 and 8), we requested, and received, a written report of the consultation sessions.

3. *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Poland relating to Air Services*

Prior to this treaty action there were various non-treaty status agreements in place concerning the provision of air services between Australia and Poland. This agreement will formalise those arrangements and provide a legal framework for scheduled air services by the designated airlines of each country. There could be increased opportunities for service providers if there are direct flights into Western Australia.

4. *Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand*

This Agreement will address political, economic, social and security issues that were not covered on the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA). As the proposed agreement enhances TAFTA, it is supported.

5. *Termination of the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Trade and Economic Cooperation*

The Slovak Republic ranks as Western Australia's 70<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner with exports valued at \$947 668 and imports valued at \$667 865 in the year 2003. It is unlikely that the termination of this agreement will have any impact on the level of trade between Western Australia and the Slovak Republic.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Petrice Judge  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS**

24 January 2005