



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 6 February
2007

Chair: Hon Bruce Baird MP
Deputy: Hon Warren Snowdon MP

DFAT to address Trade Committee on Trade with Mexico and Region

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will address the Trade Sub-Committee on Wednesday 7 February in Canberra.

This will be the Trade Committee's first public hearing for its inquiry into Australia's trade with Mexico and the Region.

The Chair of the Trade Committee the Hon Bruce Baird MP said that:

"From the Committee's point of view it is important that representatives from DFAT are the first to give evidence. This will enable the Committee to get a broad understanding of Australia's opportunities in this region and look at the work the Australian Government is doing to facilitate trade in a part of the world that is rapidly growing."

In 2005, trade with Mexico was worth \$1.6 billion and trade in services another \$59 million.

The countries of the region comprise Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Australian exports to the region include dairy products, agricultural inputs, steel and other intermediate products. There are indications that commercial opportunities are starting to grow and diversify into the services sector.

The hearing will begin at 11.15 am in Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday 7 February 2007, concluding at 12.00 pm

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Hon Bruce Baird (Member for Cook, NSW), on (02) 6277 4814 (Parliament House).

For all other inquiries, including the full terms of reference, please contact the Trade Sub-Committee Secretary by phone on (02) 6277 4628, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt>