

ITV 6

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2004-2005, 31 May 2004 to 2 June 2004

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: PROPOSED CHINA – AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
REFERENCE: HANSARD 31/5/04, PAGES E68-69

QUESTION No.6
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E68)

Senator Carr asked about:

Can you provide a copy of the Department's input to the China-Australia free trade agreement feasibility study?

ANSWER

As part of its active participation in the joint China-Australia FTA Feasibility Study, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR) has provided substantial input to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). This input included information on Australian trade/investment regulation/policy; known market access concerns (offensive and defensive interests); suggestions of possible case studies; and issues relating to identifying China as a market economy.

This input was provided to DFAT on a confidential basis. As such, it contains information which could, should it be placed on the public record, compromise Australia's negotiating position should the feasibility study recommend that FTA negotiations proceed. This is particularly the case for the input on potential offensive and defensive interests. Further, the input on China's market economy status could undermine the review process currently being undertaken by DFAT in conjunction with the feasibility study.

QUESTION No.7
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E69)

Senator Carr asked about:

In relation to consultations that have taken place with industry on the feasibility of the proposed China - Australia free trade agreement ... Can I have a schedule for those consultations?

ANSWER

A schedule of consultations was tabled during the Estimates hearing on 31 May 2004.