

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: AUSTRALIA-CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
REFERENCE: HANSARD 30/05/05, PAGES E85-86

QUESTION No.27
(Hansard 30/05/05, p.E85)

Senator Lundy asked about:

Can the Department provide the Committee with any documents prepared for the purpose of analysing the feasibility of the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA)?

ANSWER

As part of its active participation in the joint Australia-China FTA Feasibility Study and the negotiation process, the Department compiled substantial input on the Australian and Chinese trade regimes, including potential offensive and defensive interests. Much of this input has been compiled on a confidential basis and contains information which could, should it be placed on the public record, compromise Australia's negotiating position. In some instances, this input also contains commercial-in-confidence material.

An edited version of an information paper prepared by the Department for Minister Macfarlane in December 2004 has been provided separately to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee secretariat. This paper examined the threats and opportunities posed by China and was developed using input provided by all areas of the portfolio. The original version of this paper contains some confidential information and policy advice which has been removed from the version of the paper provided to the Committee secretariat. It should also be noted that the trade data quoted in the paper may no longer be current.