

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

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**QUESTION No.33**

(Hansard 30/05/05, p.E104)

**Senator Lundy** asked about:

Can you confirm whether the claim by the Government during the debate or discussion about the AUSFTA was that Australian companies would not be precluded as a result of that legislation?

**ANSWER**

Throughout the negotiations, Australia's negotiators consulted frequently with industry bodies on the aims and directions of the negotiations. The negotiators made it clear to industry what benefits were being sought under the agreement, what provisions would remain in place under the US SME set aside targets and, consequently, what provisions would remain in place for Australian SMEs within the Australian Government procurement market.