

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 1 November 2006

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
TOPIC: CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) NEGOTIATIONS
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

QUESTION No.SI-37

Senator Carr asked:

Does the Department have a view of what the likely impact would be if these programs were altered as part of the implementation of the China FTA? If so, what impact would the Department expect any changes to have?

ANSWER

The Australia-China FTA negotiation is a dynamic process where the structure of the final agreement, and the impacts that would flow from it, will not be known until all aspects of the FTA have been agreed between the two parties.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources has, in its contribution to the development of Australian Government policy positions, taken into consideration the views of all stakeholders obtained through the extensive consultation and submission processes. The Australian Government's policy positions in relation to the FTA negotiations, and some of the information provided by stakeholders, have been developed on a confidential basis and could, should they be placed on the public record, compromise Australia's negotiating position

QUESTION No.SI-38

Senator Carr asked:

Is the Department aware of any work being done on this issue by any other Department or by external agencies? If so, please provide details.

ANSWER

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources is not aware of any work currently being done by any other Australian Government Department or external agency on the likely impact of the Australia-China FTA on the TCF and Automotive industry plans.

Most recently, the South Australian State Government developed a discussion paper on the China FTA which it indicated it wished to debate at the next COAG in February 2007. In April 2006, the Victorian State Government commissioned the Centre for International Economics (CIE) to undertake a study into the impact of an Australian-China FTA on Victorian industry which was completed in October 2006.