
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Foreword

The Inquiry into Australia's Relations with India as an Emerging World Power was first adopted by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade in the 41st Parliament, in March 2006. Although a draft report of the Inquiry had been prepared by the end of that Parliament, The Committee was unable to table a final report prior to the prorogation of the Parliament in October 2007.

The Committee was re-established in 12 February 2008 with a new Chair, Senator Michael Forshaw, and a significant change in membership. The Committee readopted the original Terms of Reference, and evidence already received, on 27 August 2008. In view of the significant lapse of time since the first draft was prepared the Committee sought updated submissions from the relevant Departments and other organisations and persons who had provided submissions and/or given evidence in the previous hearings.

The present Report is the result of revision by the Committee of the previous draft report taking into the further submissions and updated material.

In announcing the original Inquiry, the then Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson acknowledged the importance of the relationship particularly having regard to recent economic growth that had transformed India into an emerging world power. These conditions continue today. The Australian Government continues to place importance upon strengthening the relationship with India and the supplementary material received by the Committee during the present Parliament reinforces this fact.

During the last few months three significant events have occurred which have a direct bearing on matters raised in the Committee's Inquiry. They have not been able to be canvassed in this report but they nevertheless re-emphasise the importance of the relationship at both the country to country and multi-lateral levels.

The first of these is the Global Economic Crisis which has hit India hard and which has implications for all aspects of Australia's trade and investment relationship

with the country. Secondly, the terrorist attacks on Mumbai on 26 November 2008 directly affected India's commercial and tourist interests. Finally, India's recent general election, the largest democratic elections held anywhere in the world, are a tribute to the robust nature of Indian democracy. It is these democratic values which we share that will continue to provide the foundations of Australia's relationship with India.

Senator M Forshaw
Chair

Membership of the Committee – 41st Parliament

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	Mr K W Wilkie, MP	

Membership of the Committee – 42nd Parliament

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Terms of reference

The full committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade shall examine and report on Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power with particular reference to:

- Trade and tourism including investment opportunities
- The defence relationship
- The strategic possibilities for both nations resulting from increasing globalisation and regional imperatives



List of abbreviations

ACIAR	Australian Centre for Intentional Agricultural Research
ABLE	Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises
AEI	Australian Education International
AIBC	Australia-India Business Council
AISRF	Australia – India Strategic Research Fund
ANU	Australian National University
ANZ	Australia New Zealand
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ATC	Australian Tourism Commission
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AUD	Australian Dollar
Austrade	Australian Trade Commission
AVCC	Australian Vice Chancellors Committee
AWB	Australian Wheat Board
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation
DBT	Department of Biotechnology
DEST	Department of Education Science and Training

DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DITR	Department of Industry Tourism and Resources
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
Go8	Group of Eight
HIV-AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	International Development Program
IITB	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
ILD	International Long Distance
IP	Intellectual Property
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IT	Information Technology
JSCFADT	Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade
JWG	Joint Working Group
KRS	Knights Restructuring Services
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NAB	National Australia Bank
NRE	National Resources Environment
NSW	New South Wales
PEC	Perth Education City

QETI	Queensland Education and Training International
TA	Tourism Australia
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WA	Western Australia
WTO	World Trade Organisation

