

**SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN
SERVICES AND AUSTRALIA/US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

SUBMISSION

Submission No: 9

Submittor: Gippslanders Against Gatts

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No. of Pages: 2

Attachments: No



GIPPSLANDERS AGAINST GATTS

10 Wilson Ct.
Trafalgar
Vic. 3824.
14/02/03

The Secretary,
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee,
Suite S1.57 Parliament House,
Canberra. ACT. 2600.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee re. the GATTS Treaty.

Yours faithfully,

Don Auchterlonie

D.J. Auchterlonie. Chairman Gippslanders Against GATTS.

GIPPSLANDERS AGAINST GATS

The members of this group believe that the GATT'S Treaty should be rejected as being against the real interests of Australia. We quote from a document containing requests from the EC (which requests our government not to make public it's demands) for Australia to open up it's service industries to tender by them.

The requests cover:-

Professional services

Business services

Postal and courier services

Telecommunication services

Construction and related engineering services

Distribution services

Environmental services

Tourism and related travel services

Transport (air, maritime, land, other) services

Energy services

This document requests that our levels of foreign ownership in all these fields be greatly increased.

- That postal and courier services be opened up to EC firms.
- That telecommunication services be opened up i.e. remove the limit on foreign ownership of Telstra.
- That limits on individual foreign ownership of Vodafone be removed.
- That restrictions on the number of non-Australian citizen directors of Optus be removed.
- Have no restrictions in construction and related engineering services.
- Commission agents services be opened up.
- Wholesale trade services be opened up.
- Retailing services be opened up.

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- Environmental services (including water and waste-water services) be fully opened up.
- Financial services be opened up.
- Tourism services be opened up.
- Transport services be opened up.
- Energy services be opened up.

If this EU request is typical of requests from other countries this re-enforces our concern about the GATTTS Treaty.

In our view this policy is for the benefit of multi-national companies. Because of the 1953 Foreign Investment Double Tax Bill, multi-national companies pay no tax in Australia. 90% of our companies are now owned by non-tax paying entities. To open up all service industries to multi-nationals would further erode our tax base and increase the already massive tax burden on Australian owned businesses and individuals.

The workers of Australia will be at a great disadvantage regarding income and working conditions under GATTTS.

WE reject this policy and expect our Federal representatives to encourage and increase Australian ownership of our service industries.