

The Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee,  
Senator Steve Hutchins, to move—

That the following matter be referred to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and  
Trade References Committee for inquiry and report to the Senate on or before 15  
September 2005:

- (a) Australia's economic relationship with China with particular reference to:
  - i. Economic developments in China over the last decade and their implications for Australia and the East Asian region;
  - ii. Recent trends in trade between Australia and China;
  - iii. The Australia-China Trade and Economic Framework and possibility of a free trade agreement with China;
  - iv. Ongoing barriers and impediments to trade with China for Australian businesses;
  - v. Existing strengths of Australian business in China and the scope for improvement through assistance via Commonwealth agencies and Australian Government programs;
  - vi. Opportunities for strengthening and deepening commercial links with China in key export sectors;
  
- (b) Australia's political relationship with China with particular reference to:
  - i. China's emerging influence across East Asia and the South Pacific;
  - ii. Opportunities for strengthening the deepening political, social and cultural links between Australia and China;
  - iii. Political, social and cultural considerations that could impede the development of strong and mutually beneficial relationships between Australia and China; and
  
- (c) Australian responses to China's emergence as a regional power with particular reference to:
  - i. China's relationships in East Asia, including in particular the Korean Peninsula and Japan;
  - ii. the strategic consequences of a China-ASEAN free trade agreement;
  - iii. China's expanded activities across the South West Pacific.