



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

18 June 2004

Mr Brenton Holmes
Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the FTA Between Australia and the USA
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Holmes

I refer to your letter of 25 May, providing copies of the transcript of evidence for the Hearing of 18 May for the Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America.

During the course of the Hearing, I asked to take a question from Senator Conroy on notice (at FTA62 of the transcript of evidence). I now attach a reply to that question.

I will be happy to provided further clarification of this issue if required.

Yours sincerely

Nic Brown
Assistant Secretary
Trade and Economic Analysis Branch
Trade Development Division

Senate Select Committee on AUSFTA

Question Arising from the Hearing of 18 May

In the Senate Select Committee inquiring into AUSFTA, Senator Conroy asked "how the CIE can be referred to so regularly in the submission [the National Interest Analysis and Regulation Impact Statement] when you are saying it was written before." Mr Brown, representing the Department asked to take the question on notice. (Transcript of Evidence for 18 May, FTA 62).

REPLY:

An initial National Interest Analysis (NIA) and Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) was submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) on 24 March and tabled in Parliament on 30 March. This did not include details on the findings of the CIE study, which was not available at that time. It did include the language on investment cited by Senator Conroy (Transcript of Evidence of 18 May, FTG57).

A revised NIA and RIS was delivered to JSCOT on 30 April, following the release of the CIE report. The RIS included a summary of the key findings of the CIE report and other references. The full report was also attached.