

I appreciate that the arguments for and against the FTA have been gone into by other submissions, so I will not go into too many specifics.

I would however like to say that I do NOT support the FTA as it stands.

The USA is renowned for hurting its FTA partners to further its own economic growth. Indeed Canada's scarce Natural Gas supplies must now be shared with the USA under NAFTA, which is severely hurting canadian consumers and industry. The USA foresaw that its own production slide would hurt its own economic growth, and slipped in a provision that it'd need a few years later while nobody was watching.

I'm sure that similar provisions would one day severely hurt Australian consumers and industry, and I don't believe that Australia has (or indeed had) the nous to identify and negotiate out of such provisions in the FTA as it stands.

In peering (free transfer of data between Internet Service Providers), you generally stick to your equals when it comes to free trade (albeit of data). In my opinion, Australia should do the same, and stick to negotiating free trade deals with its economic equals.

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