

Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement  
between Australia and the United States of America  
Suite S1.30.1  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**SUBMISSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
WITH THE UNITED STATES ON FILM AND TELEVISION IN AUSTRALIA**

Dear Senators

I write to express my concerns regarding the draft text of the proposed free trade agreement with the United State of America.

Specifically I am concerned with the impact on the entertainment industry, those who work in the industry and on local production. I write as both a former actor and as the State MLA for many constituents in Perth whose livelihood depends on ongoing, locally sourced product.

As you will be aware we have a very vibrant arts community in Australia and an arts/entertainment industry that produces high quality product for Australian television and other media.

It is my belief that under this agreement there may be significant losses to Australian culture. Through the erosion of local content rules governing free to air Australian television is at risk of being flooded with US produced programs with no protection for the Australian industry.

This could see a loss of jobs within the Australian industry through a decrease in the demand for their product.

I do note the lack of real detail within the text of the agreement. This makes it very hard to judge the negative impact that this agreement will have not only on the Australian film and television industry but also the impact on the Australian culture.

Under this agreement it is my belief that the industry would require significant support from the Government to negate the negative impact this agreement will have on the industry

With what few protections the industry has at present being severely eroded by this agreement, Australian access to local film and television will be severely limited.

I hope that the enhancement of Australian culture will form the basis of your sustainable examination of this treaty.

Yours sincerely

JOHN HYDE MLA  
**MEMBER FOR PERTH**

28 April 2004