

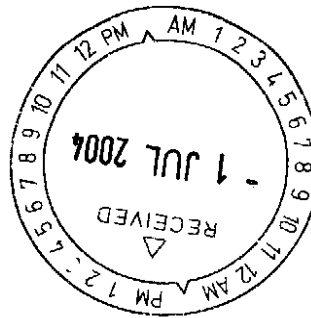
# Office of the Mayor

29 June 2004



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The Hon Senator Peter Cook  
Chair of the Australian Senate  
Select Committee, Free Trade Agreement  
Between Australia & United States  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Cook,

## Re: The USA – Australia Free Trade agreement

I am writing on behalf of Leichhardt Municipal Council to urge you to oppose the USA Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Leichhardt Municipal Council is seriously concerned about the impact of the Free Trade Agreement on the Australian Economy and particularly Local Government.

Leichhardt Municipal Council is concerned that if adopted the agreement will:

- reduce regional employment and the micro-economies dependent on this employment
- reduce the decision making powers of local communities and local or state governments
- reduce the financial viability of Australian government owned enterprises
- reduce the Australian content of film and television broadcasting
- act against the best interests of all Australians

Further there is a potential loss of Australian culture, reduced reinvestment in Australian jobs, reduced tariffs on goods and the fact that Australia did not seem to get as good a deal through the FTA as other nations that have negotiated similar agreements with the USA.

The deal also gives greater control to US corporations over our economy. Medicines, quarantine law, health services, manufacturing and agricultural industries are all affected.

Full Market access to our economy will severely restrict the ability of local governments to regulate our local areas, particularly in relation to restricting numbers of businesses such as shopping centres and other developments.

Leichhardt Municipal Council therefore urges you to reject the USA Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

  
Alice Murphy  
MAYOR

