



Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

25 July 2015

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretariat

I am writing on behalf of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre to express our opinion about the China FTA. After careful consideration of the issues, and in particular:

- the implications of the ISDS provisions for the protection of environmental and community well-being. This provision undermines the integrity of democracy, and it emasculates all levels of Australian government when it comes to self-determination about the quality of environmental resources and the well-being of the community.
- the lack of transparency in the whole process of developing FTAs, and the fact that the Australian Parliament is being asked to vote on the implementing legislation without knowing the details or considering the implications for future governments and communities. No specific modelling of the impacts of the China FTA has been done. MPs are being asked to vote in ignorance.
- the new MOU that allows Chinese companies to import their own workforce for projects over \$150 million. This arrangement prevents local workers from gaining employment in project valued at over \$150 million; it also means labour rights and environmental standards can be easily ignored.

The Board of SSEC does not believe the China FTA is in the national interest. We urge you to recommend that Parliament vote against the implementing legislation.

Yours sincerely

Jenni Gormley
Chairperson

c.c. Craig Kelly, MP; Hon. Scott Morrison, MP