PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 27 October 2009

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Inquiry into Trade and Investment Relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America – Public Hearing

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is conducting an inquiry into Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

Janelle Saffin, Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, said that "the aim of the inquiry is to find ways to further expand Australia's trade and investment opportunities in countries that already account for three-quarters of Australia's total trade."

Trade and investment in these regions are issues of growing importance to Australia and the inquiry is seeking ways to help Australian companies, particularly those in regional areas, make the most of current and developing opportunities. Australia has had a close and long-standing association with the Pacific Island countries generally, and the members of the South Pacific Forum in particular.

On Wednesday 28 October, the Sub-Committee will hold a further Public Hearing. It will hear evidence from the Pacific Islands Trade Commissioner. The Sub-Committee is pleased to have this opportunity, as the Australian Government has been a strong supporter of the Pacific Islands Trade Commission since it was established.

The hearing will be held in Committee Room 1 S 5 commencing at 11:00am and concluding at about 12:15pm.

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au. Paper-based submissions should be directed to the Trade Sub-Committee, R1–120, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600 and accompanied by an electronic version on disk.

Program for Public Hearing – 28 October 2009	
11:00am	**South Pacific Trade Commissioner, Mr Caleb Jarvis**

For all inquiries, including the full terms of reference, please contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm

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