

Foreword

The final report of the Senate Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America consists of the following:

- An introduction and 10 chapters that were adopted by a majority of the committee as a balanced summary of the evidence taken during the inquiry
- Additional comments, points of dissent and recommendations from all parties represented on the committee, and
- A separate volume of additional information containing the independent economic analysis of the agreement by Dr Philippa Dee, answers to questions on notice provided by the Commonwealth and state governments, a chronology of events leading to the FTA and a table of the items to be reviewed, institutional arrangements and working parties to be established under this agreement.

The 10 chapters of the final report examine in detail some of the key issues considered by the committee. It should be read in conjunction with the committee's interim report, released on 21 June 2004, which set out the breadth of issues raised during the inquiry.

The main body of this report does not contain specific recommendations. Each party's findings and recommendations are found in the additional statements at the end of the report.

At a private meeting on 2 August 2004 the committee voted 6-2 in favour of a motion that the Committee recommend that the Senate agree to the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement Implementation Bill 2004. This recommendation should be read in conjunction with the additional recommendations, comments, and dissenting remarks of all parties contained in this report.

.....
Senator the Hon Peter Cook
Chair

