



COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SECTOR UNION
STATE PUBLIC SERVICES FEDERATION GROUP

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via e-mail: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Customs Amendment (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Implementation) Bill 2018 [Provisions], Customs Tariff Amendment (Comprehensive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Implementation) Bill 2018 [Provisions]

The Community and Public Sector Union/State Public Services Federation (CPSU SPSF) represents workers in state public services around Australia. The CPSU SPSF endorses the submissions made by our peak union body, the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), our global union federation, Public Services International (PSI), and the Australian Fair Trade Investment Network (AFTINET) to this inquiry. We urge this inquiry to recommend that the Senate reject the implementing legislation for the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Agreement.

The CPTPP is a bad agreement for Australian communities, the public services they rely on, and workers everywhere. Even big business [economic modelling](#) has failed to show that the CPTPP will deliver tangible benefits to the economy, adding less than 0.5% to GDP in a decade's time. The specific concerns of our members include:

- Reduced access to essential services;
- The negative impact of Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) processes on democracy;
- The impact on workers' rights, pay and conditions and a lack of enforceability around these rights;
- The lack of protection for the environment;
- The threat of decreased access to affordable medicines pending the US re-joining the TPP; and
- The undemocratic and secretive way the negotiations were conducted without any genuine input from the Australian community.

The matters identified above are serious deficiencies with the CPTPP and the process by which it was negotiated. As such, we call on the Australian Senate to reject the CPTPP by voting against the enabling legislation.

Yours sincerely

Karen Batt
Federal Secretary
CPSU SPSF