Submission No 7

Inquiry into Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power

Organisation:	Australia India Business Council
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Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee



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The Secretary Joint Standing Committee Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Re: Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia India Relations

I am responding to your invitation seeking written submissions to this enquiry. I write on behalf of the Australia India Business Council (SA Chapter), which has, as one of its primary objectives to build stronger business links between Australia and India. I noted that the new enquiry will examine Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power with particular focus on investment opportunities, defence relationship and strategic possibilities for both nations resulting from increasing globalisation and regional imperatives. This submission is directed towards highlighting the need to create a relationship with India which will encourage and promote trade and investment between the two countries which in turn will benefit South Australia.

The South Australian government has identified India as one of the countries with which it wishes to engage in terms of business and trade and the AIBC (SA Chapter) was launched in July 2005 and is working very closely with the State Government to promote this objective.

I draw the Committee's attention to the linkages between education, tourism and hospitality and the potential that sport has to bind those industry sectors together to create bilateral trade and investment with India. In this regard I strongly support the submission made to your Committee by Education Adelaide, and would reinforce that by encouraging the Committee to look at ways and means at a national level, to develop policies which would help South Australia to maximise the obvious synergies between those industry sectors.

Another area of interest in terms of the relationship between India and Australia is in the film industry sector and in this instance the Committee may like to look at whether or not the current entry requirements for film producers from India to work at locations in South Australia, or indeed Australia, are perhaps too restrictive or time consuming.

The export of Australian wine to India has great potential, given the size of the market and the burgeoning middle class in India which is becoming more and more attracted to wine. The Committee may like to consider how, at a national government to government level, the current restrictions, in terms of import duties on wine in India from Australia might be relaxed.

I have referred to just two industry sectors, but there are of course many others that could benefit from a closer economic and political relationship between the two countries. I encourage the Committee to examine the current impediments in this country and in India (if that is within its terms) to bilateral trade so as to encourage greater engagement for businesses between the two countries.

The South Australian Chapter of AIBC is very keen to promote increased trade and business between India and Australia, not only on a unilateral but on bilateral basis and it is part of the Chapter's strategic plan to encourage trade delegations both to India from Australia and to Australia from India. I will be leading the first of these delegations to India between 25 October and 3 November and it is presently proposed that the Premier, the Honourable Mike Rann, will accompany that delegation. As the Committee Chairman has said in announcing this enquiry, this is indeed a timely enquiry, given the role that India is now playing in the global economy, and I and my members would be happy to assist the Committee at any public hearing that it has in Adelaide.

Yours sincerely,

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Brian Hayes QC Chairman AIBC South Australian Chapter