



Treaties Committee to review the Malaysia- Australia Free Trade Agreement

The Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will examine the costs and benefits of the proposed Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement (MAFTA) at a public hearing in Canberra on 12 October 2012.

Malaysia is Australia's 10th largest trading partner and third largest among Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. Two-way trade with Malaysia was \$16 billion in 2011, representing 2.6 per cent of Australia's total trade in goods and services.

Since the stalemate in the World Trade Organisation's Doha Round of negotiations for international trade liberalisation, Australia has entered into a number of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements. MAFTA is one of these agreements, and is expected to provide greater certainty for Australian exporters and investors through commitments on goods and services market access as well as strengthening Australia's broader bilateral relationship with Malaysia.

"Australia's free trade agreements are intended reduce barriers to trade between Australia and our major trading partners," committee chair Kelvin Thomson MP said.

"However, some sectors of civil society have questioned the impact of free trade agreements on employment and the broader economy."

"The committee is aware of community concerns about these treaties and will be interested in hearing all opinions on this agreement."

Public Hearing: Friday 12 October 2012, Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House Canberra

11.00am Australian Dairy Industry Council (Teleconference)

11.30am Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

12.10pm Close

The hearing will be broadcast through: www.aph.gov.au/live

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm.

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Media contact:	Mr Kelvin Thomson MP (Mr Anthony Cianflone)	(03) 9350 5777
Background:	Committee Secretariat	(02) 6277 4002