



TT 15 March 05  
Submission No: .....2.....

## Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE & INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Dr Andrew Southcott MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Southcott

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2005 inviting ACT Government comment on a treaty currently under review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Your letter invited comment on the following treaty tabled in Parliament on 15 March 2005:

- *Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement Amendments*

The ACT Government will not be making any comments to the Committee in relation to this matter at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity however, to affirm the ACT Government's belief in the value and importance of the Singapore - Australia Free Trade Agreement. Together with other States and the Northern Territory, the ACT Government is currently working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to finalise other matters arising from the review of this treaty, specifically State and Territory reservations on the application of the Trade in Services and Investment Chapters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the treaty under inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA  
Chief Minister

13 APR 2005

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433

