



ASEAN Free Trade Agreement to be examined by the Treaties Committee in Darwin hearing

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will hear from Government and industry groups about the likely effects of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area on the Northern Territory economy at a public hearing to be held in Darwin on Thursday, 7 May.

'The Northern Territory is geographically close to the members of ASEAN and has significant export trade, particularly in livestock, with these countries,' the Committee's Chair, Kelvin Thomson MP, stated. 'The Trade Agreement may open even more opportunities for the Northern Territory economy and community with these near neighbours.'

The Committee will also hear from the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory, the Territory's peak non-government environmental group, as part of the Committee's inquiry into Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

While in Darwin, the Committee will also inspect a monitoring station used to detect radioactive debris from atmospheric, underground and underwater nuclear explosions. The station is part of an international network of monitoring stations designed to detect a nuclear explosion, such as a nuclear weapons test, anywhere on earth. This international network is coordinated by the Preparatory Commission to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

9.30am – 12.20pm, Thursday, 7 May 2009

Venue: Litchfield Room, Northern Territory Parliament House, Darwin

9:30am	Environment Centre of the Northern Territory
10:20am	Department of the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
11:00am	<i>Roundtable hearing:</i> International Business Council Northern Territory Resources Council

Further information is available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/jsct

MEDIA CONTACTS

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