



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**  
Trade Sub-Committee

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP  
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

## Trade Sub-Committee calls for increased trade facilitation

More needs to be done to facilitate trade and investment between Australia and Asia, the Pacific and Latin America, according to a new report by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The *Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America* report shows trade with the three regions plays a significant role in supporting local jobs and the Australian economy.

“Trade is important to economic health and critical to the development of bilateral and multilateral relationships between countries,” Trade sub-committee chair Janelle Saffin said. “Trade facilitation features large in our report, as it did for all who gave evidence to the inquiry.”

The report contains a number of recommendations focused on trade facilitation, including:

- that Australia continues to strongly support the work in APEC on the identification and elimination of choke points in regional supply chains and the development of modern and efficient communications networks;
- that Australia work towards the complete introduction of paperless trading as soon as possible and that it encourage and, where necessary, assist its trading partners to achieve the same outcome;
- that Australia should strongly encourage the complete acceptance of the APEC Business Travel Card by the remaining members of APEC; and also explore the possibility of establishing a similar arrangement with other trading partners;
- that COAG make improved cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States, and between the States themselves, a high priority – to achieve higher levels of efficiency in the transport and logistics supply chains, provision of infrastructure, and trade facilitation.

The report also made several recommendations focussed on boosting trade with Latin America, including improvements to visa applications and skills recognition, working holiday programs and increased bilateral visits with countries in the region.

“Australian jobs depend on reciprocal trade, and it is so for both city and country alike. This often gets lost in partisan political debate, but cannot. Trade requires an open door, and it cuts both ways,” Ms Saffin said.

**For media comment**, please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Ms Janelle Saffin MP, on (02) 6277 4323, or the Deputy Chair, Hon Bruce Scott MP, on (02) 6277 4949.

**For the full report and background information**, please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/apla/report.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au)