



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA ALERT
Issued: 3 November 2005

Chair: Senator Alan Ferguson
Sub Comm. Chair: Senator Marise Payne

Australia's relations with Korea

Public hearings in Canberra

Federal parliament's Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee concludes its first round of public hearings for its review of Australia's relationship with the Republic of Korea with a public hearing in Canberra on Monday, 7 November.

The Committee is reviewing the extent of the political, strategic, economic, social and cultural relationship, and is considering both the current situation and future opportunities.

Announcing the public hearing, the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Senator Alan Ferguson said:

"The Committee will be conducting a telephone conference with Mr Peter O'Brien, managing director, Oceanis Holdings Ltd. This company owns and operates the Busan Aquarium in the Republic of Korea. The aquarium, costing US\$30 million to construct, was opened in 2001 and has annual attendances of over one million people. The Committee will be keen to explore with Mr O'Brien his views on Korean business culture, and how to successfully conduct business in the Republic of Korea."

The Committee will also be talking to Mr Mack Williams, a previous Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

"Mr Williams' insights into the Korean culture and his views on recent developments on the Korean peninsula will be welcomed by the Committee," Senator Ferguson said.

The Committee expects to hold a final, wrap-up public hearing in the New Year and table its report in the Autumn session of Parliament. Submissions received by the Committee and transcripts of the public hearings will be available on the Committee's website.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM – 7 November 2005

Venue: Committee Room 1R4, first floor, Parliament House, Canberra

9.30 am **Oceanis Holdings – Mr Peter O'Brien** (sub no. 27)
10.15 am **Mr Mack Williams**
11.15 am Close

For media inquiries, contact the Committee Chair, Senator Alan Ferguson, on 02 6277 3115 or 08 8237 7180.

For all other inquiries, contact the Sub Committee Secretary, John Carter, on 02 6277 4306 or visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/korea/index.htm>