



## Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Senator for South Australia

Mr Russell Broadbent MP  
Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Member for McMillan  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Broadbent,

### **Referral of the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties**

Further to conversations with the Shadow Minister for Trade, the Hon Jason Clare MP, I write to refer the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement ('PAFTA') to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties ('JSCOT') for a second inquiry at the request of the Australian Labor Party.

Following the passage of the enabling legislation of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership ('TPP-11'), the Australian Labor Party seeks further investigation into PAFTA in order to satisfy themselves on the merits of the agreement prior to consideration of its enabling legislation. The Labor Party have particularly requested examination in relation to the Investor-State Dispute Settlement provisions.

Whilst JSCOT's inquiry report of August 2018 recommended supporting PAFTA and that binding treaty action be taken, I am referring this Free Trade Agreement back to JSCOT in the spirit of bipartisanship with which Australian Free Trade Agreements have been agreed over the last three decades.

Industry groups such as the Australian Meat Industry Council, Minerals Council of Australia, National Farmers' Federation, Australian Dairy Industry Council, Australian red meat industry, the Winemakers' Federation of Australia, Canegrowers and the Group of Eight Universities have all publically endorsed PAFTA and the benefits for Australian exporters, workers and the economy.

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Recognising this level of support, I seek to move this inquiry swiftly with a reporting deadline of Wednesday, 21 November 2018. This is necessary so that we can still ratify PAFTA before the end of 2018, which will maximise the benefits of the agreement for Australian exporters (including those listed above). This timing will also enable Australian exporters a secondary tariff reduction benefit from 1 January 2019.

Thank you for your support in progressing this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Birmingham', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Simon Birmingham**

**23 OCT 2018**