



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



File Number: 09/8818#3

5 November 2009

Senator Mark Bishop
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Bishop

I write to provide additional information to the evidence given to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 22 October 2009.

In answer to the following question from Senator Trood on AANZFTA: Are we closer to having the agreement ratified? I would like to clarify the answer provided by Mr Mugliston with the following:

The Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) will enter into force following the notification of completion of domestic processes by Australia, New Zealand and at least four ASEAN member countries. The date of entry into force is expected to be 1 January 2010. The current status of notifications is Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Burma have notified other AANZFTA parties that they have ratified the Agreement. Australia is encouraging as many ASEAN countries as possible to complete their domestic processes before the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

David Ritchie
Deputy Secretary