

To The Members of the Senate Select Enquiry into the United States- Australia Free Trade Agreement.

I wish to object to this FTA because I do not believe this agreement is advantageous to Australia.

The gains for Australia in agriculture, except for lamb, are meager and heavily qualified. The agreement does not address the issue of unfair advantages US farmers have due to income subsidies, abolishing export subsidies does nothing to help Australian farmers.

Quarantine is an issue of grave concern. If regulations are relaxed to accommodate US produce Australia's agriculture and natural environment will be jeopardized. It was distressing to have this regulatory body relax restrictions on some key agricultural produce where our disease free status is very advantageous at the very moment when this FTA became public. Industrial tariffs remain in place for goods Australia is good at producing, eg ferry boats, and are zero in the other direction. US will clearly be advantaged by reductions in tariffs since their exports to Australia vastly exceed ours to them.

It is also apparent that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is under threat. There is no possible reason for a review committee to exist except to influence the decisions made by the Australian Government's committee on which drugs to include in the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme.

Thank you for considering these issues.

Yours faithfully

Cheryl Mainard