



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT**

**REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**Inquiry into Management of the Removal of Fee Rebate for AQIS Export Certification Functions - Committee Handling of Austrade Submission of 4 September 2009**

On 4 September 2009, the Committee received a submission from Austrade in relation to its Inquiry into Management of the Removal of the Rebate for AQIS Export Certification Functions. The Committee considered the submission at a private meeting on Tuesday, 8 September 2009 and authorised publication of the submission on the Committee's website.

On 9 September 2009, the Committee secretariat received a copy of a letter addressed to the Chair of the Committee, Senator Nash, advising that the submission does not reflect the considered view of Austrade and had not been cleared by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Austrade or any other member of the Austrade executive.

The Committee Secretary, following consultation with the Clerk Assistant (Committees) arranged for the submission to be temporarily removed from the Committee's website pending the Committee's decision on the matter and contacted the Chair of the Committee.

This decision was taken:

- (a) to preserve the right of the Committee to decide whether or not to leave the document on the website without having its hand forced by the technological imperatives of the web; and
- (b) to ensure that the Committee had not taken a decision unaware that it may be relying on a mistake.

At a subsequent private meeting the Committee endorsed the decision to remove the submission from the Committee website and agreed that Austrade should be informed of this action and that the Committee intended to publish either the letter of 9 September 2009, or any subsequent letter that Austrade may wish to furnish, by way of explanation for the submission's removal.

Austrade will be appearing at the Committee's hearing this afternoon.

Senator Fiona Nash  
Committee Chair