



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

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11 May 2011

The Hon Barry House MLC
President
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr President

Treaty tabled on 11 May 2011

I am writing to advise of the most recent tabling of a treaty, and to invite comments as part of the review process undertaken by the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Before action is taken to bind Australia to the terms of treaties, the Treaties Committee considers and reports on whether the proposals are in Australia's national interest. The Committee is currently inquiring into the following proposed treaty tabled in both Houses of the Parliament this week:

Treaty tabled on 11 May 2011

- *Protocol on Investment to the Australia - New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (Wellington, 16 February 2011)*

The subject matter of international treaties can be of interest to State and Territory Governments and Parliaments and we are keen to provide an opportunity for comment on any issues arising from proposed treaties. Treaty texts and copies of the National Interest Analysis (which accompany each treaty tabled) are available from the Committee's website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/11may2011/tor.htm>.

As the Treaties Committee has periods of 15 and 20 sitting days in which to complete its reviews, it would be helpful if you could forward any comments you might wish to make to the Committee Secretariat by **Friday, 10 June 2011**. If substantial issues of concern are raised about the proposed treaty and the Committee's usual period of review is extended, it may be possible to arrange for a submission to be lodged after this date. Your comments may be accepted as a submission to the review and authorised for publication.