
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Report 130

Treaty tabled on 14 August 2012

Malaysia – Australia Free Trade Agreement done at Kuala Lumpur on 22 May
2012

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Membership of the Committee

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(from 12/9/12)

Senator Simon Birmingham
(until 12/9/12)

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Resolution of Appointment

The Resolution of Appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties allows it to inquire into and report on:

- a) matters arising from treaties and related National Interest Analyses and proposed treaty actions and related Explanatory Statements presented or deemed to be presented to the Parliament;
- b) any question relating to a treaty or other international instrument, whether or not negotiated to completion, referred to the committee by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament, or
 - (ii) a Minister; and
- c) such other matters as may be referred to the committee by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and on such conditions as the Minister may prescribe.



List of recommendations

4 Conclusion

Recommendation 1

That prior to commencing negotiations for a new agreement, the Government table in Parliament a document setting out its priorities and objectives including independent analysis of the anticipated costs and benefits of the agreement. Such analysis should be reflected in the National Interest Analysis accompanying the treaty text.

Recommendation 2

That after 24 months of the treaty coming into effect, an independent review of MAFTA be conducted to assess actual outcomes of the treaty against the claimed benefits and potential negative consequences noted in this report. The review should consider the economic, regional, social, cultural, regulatory, labour and environmental impacts. Such a review should serve as a model for future free trade agreements.

Recommendation 3

The Committee supports the *Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement done at Kuala Lumpur on 22 May 2012* and recommends that binding treaty action be taken.