



## Australia - United States Free Trade Agreement Fact Sheet 20

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- The Government has consulted business, state and territory governments, non-government organisations and the public right through the negotiations.
- Ministers, negotiators and departments will hold public information sessions.
- The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) will examine the text.

#### The Consultation Process

The government consulted State and Territory Governments, business and the general public extensively in developing and negotiating the AUSFTA.

Nearly 200 submissions were received, including 69 from industry, 32 from NGOs and 8 from trade unions. The DFAT website (<http://www.dfat.gov.au>) included media transcripts, background documents and answers to frequently asked questions, as well as a newsletter distributed to Federal and State MPs and over 1,000 e-mail subscribers.

The negotiating team had meetings with over 200 industry groups, businesses, state government departments, consumer groups, unions and NGOs (many several times). State and territory governments were briefed before and after each negotiating round.

The Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile, discussed the AUSFTA with his Trade Policy Advisory Committee and WTO Advisory and Agricultural Trade Consultative Groups.

#### What Next

Mr Vaile, his Parliamentary Secretary, De-Anne Kelly, the negotiating team, government departments, Austrade and Invest Australia will hold further public meetings and sessions with business and State and Territory governments.

Later in the year the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) will examine the AUSFTA, and may hold public hearings before reporting to the Parliament.

#### Who to contact

For further information, please contact DFAT's AUSFTA Taskforce:

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