



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References
Committee Report:

China-Australia Free Trade Agreement

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This is the Australian Government's response to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report on the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), tabled on 17 June 2015.

The Government welcomes the Committee's final recommendation that prompt binding treaty action be taken in relation to ChAFTA. Australia has completed its domestic treaty-making processes and following an exchange of notes with China on 9 December 2015, ChAFTA entered into force on 20 December 2015.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Australian Government utilise the review of the investor-state dispute settlement provisions to further enhance the safeguards for Australia.

The Government notes the committee's recommendation. Following ChAFTA's entry into force on 20 December 2015, Australia and China shall conduct a review of ChAFTA investment provisions no later than 20 December 2018.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that binding treaty action be taken in relation to the *Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China*.

Australia has completed its domestic treaty-making processes and ChAFTA entered into force on 20 December 2015.

Dissenting Report – Australian Greens

Recommendation

That binding treaty action not be taken in relation to the *Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China*.

The Government does not accept this recommendation. Australia has completed its domestic treaty-making processes and ChAFTA entered into force on 20 December 2015.