

International Trade, Corey Norton, Chair

From Brett Williams (Australia):

Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Now that the election is over and we have a new government, it is expected that the government will ask the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties ('JSCOT') of the 45th Parliament to review the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement which was signed by Australia on 4 February 2016 but which Australia has not yet ratified. This referral may occur at the first sitting date of the new Parliament on 30 August to 1 September 2016. The treaty and an accompanying National Interest Statement were tabled in Parliament on 9 February and it was referred to a JSCOT inquiry. Upon the dissolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives on 9 May 2016 for the general election on 2 July 2016, the parliamentary committees of the 44th Parliament ceased to exist so the previous inquiry by the JSCOT lapsed and will need to be recommenced.