

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 10:31 AM
To: BITreformproject
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DFAT11-3-25

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

I have long been an individual member of AFTINET, the Australian Free Trade and Investment Network, and have made previous submissions on various aspects of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements being negotiated by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

As a former, and now retired, Commonwealth Public Service officer, I am keen to do what I can to protect Government expenditure on wasteful claims made on it.

I remember being incensed by the Philip Morris Company over Australia's 2012 plain packaging law. The government had to spend \$12 million on its legal costs against this claim under Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions.

I welcome this opportunity to make a short submission to your review of Australia's bilateral investment treaties with Argentina, Turkiye and Pakistan.

I strongly support the removal of ISDS provisions in these three agreements. Bilateral investment agreements do not need to include ISDS. They can include general rules that provide fair protection for international investment, but do not give individual foreign investors extra legal rights to sue governments. Recent examples of this include the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership of 14 Asia-Pacific countries and the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]