

**Goods and Investment Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Dear Sirs/Madames,

As a concerned citizen, I feel it is vital to make a submission regarding Australia's participation in the TPP negotiations.

The Trans-Pacific-Partnership is bad for Australia and counter to the public interest in an increasingly connected digital world.

The TPP effectively sells out Australia's long-term competitiveness for the profit margin of a few multinationals. It transfers the cost and burden of prosecuting civil issues, such as intellectual property issues to our Government and makes many civil issues criminal matters.

The people negotiating the Transpacific partnership have form: they regularly try and shift what are civil matters into the criminal sphere - ACTA, PIPA and SOPA are all laws that the American congress (and public) steadfastly rejected becoming American law, and all of them will become binding on Australians thanks to provisions of the TPP. If the American people weren't going to tolerate these provisions then surely they are not in Australia's national interest.

The TPP will also criminalise currently legal activities such as media shifting (for instance copying a CD into your iTunes library provided you don't share it with other people), time shifting television broadcast, re-broadcasting free to air TV to the Internet, or buying de-regionalised DVDs, BluRays, and video games.

The TPP will also eliminate Australia's chances of a fair deal. Under the TPP, Australians will no longer be legally permitted to buy digital content from overseas. Parallel import of digital content will become illegal. Last year's IT Products Senate Enquiry found that most international companies were price gouging Australia for no other reason than they could get away with it.

Let me give you an example: if you have an iTunes account you can buy a digital copy of a new release DVD for about AU\$30. If you had an American iTunes account the exact same file costs \$7.99. Even if you consider GST (10%) and standard exchange-rate hedging (20%) Australians are still being overcharged by roughly \$20.

The TPP will make it illegal for Australians to assert their legal rights under parallel import laws and will help dying media companies to extract more money from Australians through price-gouging.

I'm also concerned for our Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The TPP proposes to allow the ever-greening of patents - which will effectively permit multinational drug companies to kill off generic medicines. This is bad news for the PBS, especially for medicines like Atorvastatin, Exxfexor, and even Ventalin.

Instead of paying generic prices for an out of patent drug, the Federal Government

will be paying billions to multi-national drug firms. How will this be affordable? Imagine if the PBS went broke - surely that is not in Australia's national interest.

The TPP was negotiated in secret for good reason - not only is it a bad deal for Australian consumers, but it also will limit our ability to innovate, and our ability to compete. It doesn't open the borders of other TPP nations: only ours to vested interests that are counter to Australia's national interest.

You have been employed to act in the interests of Australia and the Australian public, rather than those of multinational organisations. I call on you to understand and abide by that trust.

Sincerely,

Dr Jordan Bell