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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **ALP trade Policy will review investor rights to sue governments, but will it vote against the TPP?**

“The ALP [trade policy](#) released yesterday shows it has responded to community concerns about secrecy and lack of democratic process for trade agreements,” Dr Patricia Ranald, Convener of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network said today.

“We welcome commitments to release draft negotiating texts, and for the final text to be tabled in Parliament before signing. We welcome the pledge to ensure that trade agreements will not restrict public health and environment policies. We particularly welcome the commitment to not to include in future trade agreements foreign investor rights to bypass national courts and sue governments in international tribunals, known as ISDS, and to review ISDS in existing agreements which are in force.

We also welcome the commitment to reintroduce labour market testing for temporary workers, to enable checking if local workers are available before bringing in overseas workers. This has been removed by the Coalition government in recent trade agreements.”

Dr Ranald said that questions still remained about ALP policy on the Trans-Pacific (TPP) deal between the US, Australia and ten other Pacific Rim countries, which is not yet in force. The TPP is still under review by a parliamentary committee and the implementing legislation will come before Parliament after the election. The TPP is clearly contrary to ALP policy because it includes ISDS and stronger monopolies on biologic medicines, and excludes labour market testing for temporary workers.

Dr Ranald explained that the terms of the TPP require the implementing legislation to be passed by the US, Japan and four other countries before it can come into force. Strong opposition from both Democrat and Republican candidates, and bipartisan Congressional opposition, mean that it will not even be considered by the U.S. Congress until after the November presidential election. [Hillary Clinton](#) has said that she will not support the TPP either before or after the presidential election, which could mean that it will not proceed at all. The [New Zealand Labour Party](#) has also pledged to oppose it.

“The test of policies is in their implementation. We are calling on the ALP to take a stand on the TPP before the election. If the ALP wins government, we ask them to commit to follow Hillary Clinton’s example, and not to proceed with the implementing legislation. If they are in opposition, we ask them to commit to vote against the implementing legislation in the Senate. This would be consistent with their policy,” said Dr Ranald.

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