



Special TPP-11 Alert

September 13, 2018

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TPP-11 campaign achieved strong parliamentary debate and continues despite Labor Caucus decision

Over the last month we intensified our lobbying through [submissions](#) to JSCOT and Senate Enquiries, [letters](#) signed by many organisations, and personal meetings with Labor and crossbench MPs. Our campaigning had a good response, which resulted in the Greens and Centre Alliance taking a firm position against the TPP-11 and in a very robust debate within the ALP. We have achieved the strongest debate amongst parliamentarians we have had since the Australia-US free trade agreement in 2004.

But despite the fact that many Labor MPs and Senators opposed the TPP-11, and spoke strongly against it, the majority of the Labor Caucus on Sept 11 decided to support the implementing legislation. The Shadow Trade Minister says that Labor will not make similar deals if it becomes the government, but the TPP-11 will already be in place.

We would like to thank all the parliamentarians in the ALP, Greens and Centre Alliance who have spoken up against the TPP-11.

There has been a strong reaction of anger and disappointment against the Labor caucus decision from our membership, especially since it pre-empts the Senate Inquiry Reports due on September 18 and October 10. See AFTINET's media release below, and a link to a critical *Crikey* article [here](#).

Many of our member organisations are continuing to ask their members to send messages to Labor Senators before the Senate vote after October 10.

The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and the Electrical Trades Union have [strongly denounced](#) Labor's Caucus decision on the TPP.

At members' request we have prepared a new updated message for our website which is below. This is a *new* message so you can send it even if you have sent the previous message. We are asking individuals and organisations to promote this as a new message and share this through their websites, Facebook and social media by October 10. The link is [here](#).

The Electrical Trades Union has also prepared a video which can be shared on social media [here](#).

Last chance to tell your Labor and other Senators to say no the TPP-11 legislation

The TPP-11 is a bad deal that gives more rights to [global corporations to sue governments](#), restricts government regulation of [essential services](#) and encourages privatisation, [lacks enforceable protections for labour rights and vulnerable temporary migrant workers](#), and [lacks enforceable environmental regulation](#).

The Turnbull Coalition government signed the deal in March 2018, but Parliament does not get to vote on the whole deal, only on the legislation needed to implement it. This legislation is now being reviewed by two Senate enquiries that will report on September 18 and October 10, after which the Senate will vote on the legislation.

The government does not have a majority in the Senate. The TPP-11 implementing legislation can be stopped if the majority in the Senate say no. The Greens, Centre Alliance and other cross-benchers have [confirmed](#) that they will oppose the legislation, so there would be a majority to stop it if Labor said no.

The TPP 11 contradicts Labor policy. But the Labor Caucus met on September 11 and a majority decided to support the TPP-11 legislation despite many speaking in opposition. The Shadow Trade Minister says that Labor will not make similar deals if it becomes the government, but the TPP-11 will already be in place.

It will take a flood of messages to change this decision. This is your only opportunity to tell Labor that they should oppose the TPP-11. The message will go to Labor and other non-government Senators in your state. If you have already sent a message, it is now updated and you can send it again.

[Send a message to your Labor and other non-government Senators to say no to the TPP-11 legislation by October 10.](#)

MEDIA RELEASE

September 12, 2018

ALP TPP-11 caucus decision deeply disappointing, say community organisations

"By deciding to endorse the TPP-11 implementing legislation, the majority in the ALP Caucus has made a decision contrary to their own policies, and has deeply disappointed many community organisations," AFTINET Convener Dr Patricia Ranald said today.

"AFTINET is a network of community organisations that advocates for fair trade based on human rights labour rights and environmental sustainability. Forty-nine diverse community organisations including church, public health, union, environment, aid and development, women's and human rights

organisations [wrote to ALP parliamentarians](#) showing that the TPP -11 has many provisions which are contrary to ALP policy. These include special rights for international corporations to bypass national courts and sue governments in unfair international tribunals if they can argue that a law or policy will harm their investment. This is known as ISDS. The TPP-11 puts restrictions on future governments' regulation of essential services and allows increased numbers of vulnerable temporary workers without testing if local workers are available.

"We are disappointed that this decision has been made before the report of a Senate Standing Committee Inquiry due on September 18, and before a Senate legislation inquiry due on October 10.

"We expect that the TPP-11 implementing legislation will be introduced into the Senate after October 10, and we will continue to advocate that the majority in the Senate vote against it.

"We welcome Shadow Trade Minister [Jason Clare's announcement](#) that the ALP will implement more transparent and democratic processes for trade agreements if it wins government, and that it will prohibit ISDS and removal of labour market testing in future trade agreements. However, this would not address these provisions in the TPP-11. Changes to the TPP-11 would require difficult negotiations once the deal is ratified, and it would have been more effective to delay implementation until such changes had been made", concluded Dr Ranald.