



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Senate Committee on Economics report:

Foreign Investment Reform (Protecting Australia's
National Security) Bill 2020 [Provisions] and Foreign
Acquisitions and Takeovers Fees Imposition Amendment
Bill 2020 [Provisions]

May 2024

Response to the recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Treasury publishes comprehensive guidance as soon as practicable to offer foreign investors in Australia greater clarity as to their responsibilities and rights.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Additional Comments by Labor Senators - Recommendation 1

The definitions under the new national security test of ‘national security business’ and ‘national security land’, and the delegated regulatory powers be clearly explained and communicated for the benefit of the Australian community and businesses, and existing and future foreign investors, before the bills’ passage and proposed enactment.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Additional Comments by Labor Senators - Recommendation 2

There be greater transparency in the publication of decisions and enforceable undertakings made under the bills and related regulations.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Additional Comments by Labor Senators - Recommendation 3

Given the current economic imperatives, there be a review within six to twelve months of the bills’ commencement to update the Parliament on the impact of the legislation, whether it is achieving its stated objectives and whether it strikes the right balance between Australia’s openness to foreign investment and protecting Australia’s national interests.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Additional Comments from the Australian Greens - Recommendation 1

The decision to grant proposed foreign investments a 'no objection notification' (approval) or an 'exemption certificate' should be made public, along with a statement of reasons, with an exemption from this publication requirement being available on national security grounds.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Additional Comments from the Australian Greens - Recommendation 2

The annual statistical report contains information on the area, value, tenure and use of land, including agricultural land, in which there is a foreign interest.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Additional Comments from the Australian Greens - Recommendation 3

The threshold for critical electricity assets be set at a level that does not have a disproportionate impact on renewable energy.

Australian Government response

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.
