



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Intelligence & Security

**Deputy Secretary**  
**Intelligence and Security**

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DEPSEC I&S/OUT/2011/088

Richard Grant  
Acting Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Mr Grant,

**The Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Amendment Bill 2011**

Thank you for inviting the Department of Defence to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Amendment Bill 2011.

The Intelligence and Security Group within the Department of Defence includes the Defence Signals Directorate, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, and the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation. All three Defence agencies are subject to the independent oversight of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

The Department of Defence is committed to engaging fully with the office of the Inspector-General Intelligence and Security in assuring that the Australian Parliament and, ultimately, the Australian people, have confidence in the legality and propriety of activities conducted by the Australian Intelligence Community.

Defence welcomes the proposed amendments and notes that the proposed changes to the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986* will allow the office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security to more efficiently and effectively undertake the functions defined under the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986*.

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Merchant**  
Deputy Secretary Intelligence and Security

6 June 2011