



The Hon Christian Porter MP

Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations
Leader of the House

Mr Andrew Hastie MP
Chair
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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10 DEC 2020

Dear Chair

I am writing to refer the *Intelligence Oversight and Other Legislation Amendment (Integrity Measures) Bill 2020* (the Bill) to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (the Committee) for inquiry and report pursuant to subparagraph 29(1)(b)(ia) of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* (the IS Act).

The Bill will implement specialised intelligence oversight for additional agencies with intelligence functions within the national intelligence community. Robust oversight is critical to ensuring community trust and confidence that intelligence functions are being used lawfully and appropriately.

The Bill has the following objectives:

- expand the oversight of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) to the intelligence functions of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission;
- expand the oversight of the Committee to the intelligence functions of AUSTRAC; and
- ensure that the legislation governing the IGIS is adapted to contemporary circumstances.

These reforms will be achieved through legislative amendment to the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986* and the IS Act. The Bill represents a measured approach that takes account of other oversight mechanisms, ensuring minimal duplication while enabling collaboration and information sharing between oversight bodies.

I am mindful of the numerous priority items that the Committee is currently considering and the time required to complete these inquiries. I thank the Committee for its work in informing the Parliament about important reforms within its remit. Should the Committee be agreeable to this referral, I would be grateful if the Committee could report by such a time that would allow the Parliament to consider the Bill before the end of the Autumn 2021 sittings.

Subject to your agreement, the Committee should, as far as possible, conduct its inquiry in public.

I thank the Committee for its consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely

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