



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

Issue date: 15 December 2017

New inquiries into four national security bills

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) has commenced inquiries into four national security bills introduced to the Parliament on 7 December 2017:

- Home Affairs and Integrity Agencies Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017
- Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017
- Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill 2017

The PJCIS Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP, said that “Together, these bills represent significant changes to strengthen Australia’s national security framework.”

“Globally there have been concerns raised about foreign influence. The bills will strengthen existing criminal laws for espionage offences and introduce new foreign interference and sabotage offences, among other reforms. Separately, the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme bill will establish a scheme that requires registration by persons who undertake certain activities within Australia on behalf of foreign interests.”

“The Committee will also look closely at amendments to existing laws to give effect to changes in ministerial powers following establishment of the Home Affairs portfolio and to manage national security risks to Australia’s critical infrastructure.” Mr Hastie said.

The Committee invites written submissions to these inquiries. If you intend to make a submission, please contact the Secretariat at pjcis@aph.gov.au by **Friday, 22 December 2017** to assist with planning.

Submissions to the inquiries into the Home Affairs and Integrity Agencies Legislation Amendment Bill, National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill and Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill are to be received no later than **Monday, 22 January 2018**.

Submissions to the inquiry into the Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill are to be received no later than **Friday, 2 February 2018**.

Full consideration may not be able to be given to submissions received after these dates.

Expected public hearing and reporting dates are listed on the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>. Copies of the Bills and Explanatory Memoranda can also be accessed via this link.



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Media enquiries: Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP (Canning, WA) on 08 9534 8044 (Electorate Office) or 02 6277 4223 (Parliament House)

For background: Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email pjcis@aph.gov.au