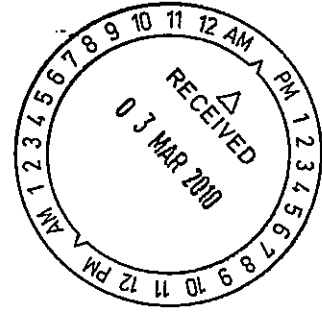


Major John M. Neenan (RL)



2 March 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to record my strong opposition to the changes to Commonwealth superannuation arrangements being proposed by the *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*.

A vast number of former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and I are seething with anger over the peremptory nature of the intended legislation, and the woeful history of (usually Labor) Government insensitivity to the welfare of members who have served in the nation's armed services. For example, the full Consumer Price Indexation (CPI) in accordance with the scheme's contract was unilaterally reduced by two percentage points by the Keating Government between 1986 and 1989, and the amount lost has never been restored. Then there was the iniquitous transfer of the accumulated funds to consolidated revenue; again the members had no say in it.

And now today we have not been asked for our opinion of the proposed Bill. I for one object to it most strenuously, on these grounds:

- the total disregard of members' wishes;
- the failure to recognize the uniqueness of ADF service;
- the proposed Board being stacked eight to two against ADF nominees;
- the obvious perception that the Government, Public Service and Unions, as represented on the Board, are no different from the ADF;
- the farcical and growing disparity between indexation rates for politicians, welfare pensioners and ADF superannuants;
- the glib nonsense uttered by Lindsay Tanner, Minister for Finance, on 15 February in answer to a question put on the ABC's Q&A; and
- the cost of \$1.1 million to implement the merger, presumably to be borne by the funds.

So much for the democracy that ADF members are contracted to fight for, to the death if need be. In what used to be the best democracy in the world, ADF serving and former members have no say in this matter; we are expected to just lie back and enjoy it. Please convey our chagrin to the Standing Committee as forcefully as you can.

Yours faithfully,