



Australian Government

Australian Government Response to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Report:

Inquiry into the Agreement between the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information

January 2022

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Inquiry into the Agreement between the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information

The Government thanks the Committee for its time and consideration of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information* (the ENNPIA).

The Government provides the following response to the Committee's recommendations.

Response to recommendation

Recommendation 1

The Committee supports the proposed *Agreement between the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information* and recommends binding treaty action be taken.

Response

The Government accepts the recommendation and has taken binding treaty action.

On 8 February 2022 the ENNPIA entered into force following the exchange of diplomatic notes between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States notifying of the completion of domestic processes, in accordance with Article X of the ENNPIA.

Response to Dissenting Report – the Australian Greens

Recommendation 1

The Australian Greens recommend that no binding treaty action be taken.

Response

The Government does not accept the recommendation.

The Government notes that the ENNPIA contributes to Australia's national interests by allowing Australia to access critical naval nuclear propulsion information from the United States and United Kingdom not otherwise available to Australia. This facilitates a commitment by AUKUS partners on identifying the optimal pathway to deliver nuclear-powered submarines for Australia.

Recommendation 2

The Australian Greens recommend that the committee process is extended to ensure the community is given adequate time to engage in this issue of significant public interest.

Response

The Government does not accept the recommendation.

The Government appreciates the Committee's expedited consideration of the ENNPIA which was a necessary step to enable AUKUS cooperation during the current 18-month consultation period to determine the optimal pathway to deliver a nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia. The Government notes that as part of the Committee's expedited process written submissions were received from the public and public hearings were held.