



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

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PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

Review of the Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill 2017

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Committee supports Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has today released its *Advisory Report on the Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill 2017*.

The Bill introduces laws to manage national security risks of sabotage, espionage and coercion to Australia's critical infrastructure. The Bill builds upon the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which the Committee considered last year.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Andrew Hastie MP said that 'the Committee is pleased to support the passage of this important national security legislation, subject to the government's acceptance of the Committee's recommendations.'

'The Committee recognises that secure and resilient critical infrastructure underpins the effective functioning of Australian society, providing continuous access to essential services for everyday life. Our recommendations will provide greater clarity, transparency and confidence to the public about the operation of the new scheme', Mr Hastie added.

The Committee made ten recommendations in its report. The Committee's recommendations include:

- that the Department of Home Affairs, within 6 months and in consultation with the Department of Defence and the Department of the Environment and Energy, review and develop measures to ensure that Australia has a continuous supply of fuel to meet its national security priorities and consider whether critical fuel assets should be subject to the Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill 2017,
- creating guidelines for industry about their reporting obligations and the risk assessment process,
- developing measures to protect Australia's fuel supply from national security threats,
- clarifying the interaction between the Bill and existing legislation, namely the *Privacy Act 1988* and the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979*, and
- amending the definition of 'direct interest holder' to align with the intent of the Bill.

The Committee has also recommended that the framework be reviewed after three years to ensure it is operating effectively. The report is available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/pjcis.

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