

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of a series of proposed treaty actions tabled on 18 and 25 June 2002.¹
- 1.2 Specifically, the report deals with the:
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Cook Islands relating to air services, done at Apia on 18 September 2001;*
 - *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Chile relating to air services, done at Santiago on 7 September 2001;*
 - *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America for the Enforcement of Maintenance (Support) Obligations;*
 - *Australian declaration under paragraph 2 of Article 36 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice 1945, lodged at New York on 22 March 2002;*

¹ For treaties tabled on 18 June 2002, see *Senate Journal*, 18 June 2002, No. 152, pp. 377-78 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 18 June 2002, No. 274, p. 255. For treaties tabled on 25 June 2002, see *Senate Journal*, 25 June 2002, No. 192, p. 453 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 25 June 2002, No. 315, p. 289.

- *Australian declarations under Articles 287(1) and 298(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, lodged at New York on 22 March 2002;*
- *International convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, done at New York on 9 December 1999;*
- *Amendment, adopted at Geneva on 21 December 2001, to the Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects of 10 October 1980;*
- *Agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas, done at Rome on 24 November 1993; and*
- *Agreement establishing the International Organisation of Vine and Wine, done at Paris on 3 April 2001.*

1.3 Two further treaties were tabled on 25 June 2002:

- *Timor Sea Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of East Timor, done at Dili on 20 May 2002; and*
- *Exchange of notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor concerning arrangements for exploration and exploitation of petroleum in an area of the Timor Sea between Australia and East Timor, done at Dili on 20 May 2002.*

The Committee will inquire into these proposed treaty actions at greater length because of the amount of public interest that they have generated.

Availability of documents

- 1.4 The advice in this report refers to National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for these proposed treaty actions. Copies of NIAs are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.
- 1.5 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the Internet by the Department

of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at:
<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.6 The Committee's review of the treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.² In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions like these. Thirteen written submissions were received in response to invitations to comment; authors of submissions are listed at Appendix A.
- 1.7 The Committee also took evidence at public hearings held on Friday, 12 July 2002. A list of witnesses giving evidence at the public hearings is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearing can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's internet site at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm.

² The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 3 July 2002. Advertisements soliciting submissions with regard to the Timor Sea treaties were also placed in the *West Australian* and the *Northern Territory News*. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.

