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RECEIVED

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Mr Kelvin Thompson MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Thomson

Questions taken on notice 31 October 2011 concerning the NASA Space Tracking Agreement

I refer to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (the Committee) hearing in respect to the *Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia to amend the Agreement concerning space vehicle tracking facilities of 29 May 1980, as amended* (NASA Agreement), tabled on 20 September 2011.

With regard to the public hearing held by the Committee on Monday 31 October 2011 at which my colleague Mr Mike Lawson gave evidence regarding the Space Tracking Agreement on my behalf, two questions on notice were taken. This letter provides answers to those questions.

1. Senator Fawcett: What specific consultation has occurred with industry, seeking their input either into this extension or more specifically the new treaty and the opportunities that they would seek?

The treaty action provides a two year extension of the NASA Agreement which governs NASA's space tracking activities and facilities in Australia. The NASA Agreement does not involve or affect industry directly through its provisions. The significant hardware associated with the NASA Agreement is designed and manufactured in the United States and imported into Australia and operated by the CSIRO on behalf of NASA. The new treaty will concern the same subject matter and produce similar effects as the NASA Agreement. Therefore no specific industry consultation has been undertaken.

2. Senator Fawcett: In what areas does industry believe that this treaty could provide a suitable vehicle to enable them to gain the appropriate accreditation [in relation to ITAR or other international regimes]?

This treaty is narrowly focussed on a NASA space tracking station being operated in Australia. It is not a suitable vehicle to enable Australian companies to gain accreditation under ITAR or other international regimes.

Yours sincerely

Michael Green
General Manager
Innovation and Space Branch
Manufacturing Division
9 December 2011