

Government Response to
Report 55
of the
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Government Response to Report 55 of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

The Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the treaties tabled, and gives the following responses to the Committee's recommendations 3 and 6:

Double Taxation Agreements

Recommendation 3

Further to comments made at paragraphs 2.34 and 2.35, the Committee recommends that the Government give greater consideration to the timing of the introduction of legislation to bring proposed treaty actions into force, so that the incidence of enabling legislation being introduced prior to the conclusion of the Committee's review is reduced.

The Government acknowledges the Committee's concern and its role in the treaty making process. The Government will make every effort to ensure that the Committee has due time to consider all treaty actions before relevant implementing legislation is introduced. The Government notes, however, that due to the national interest, this may not always be possible. It remains open for Parliament to delay considering such legislation until the Committee has reported.

In order to reduce the incidence of enabling legislation being introduced to Parliament before the conclusion of the Committee's review, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will write to portfolio Legislation Liaison Officers about treaty enabling legislation.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Government, in consultation with relevant parties, consider the formation of a negotiating forum, of a size and management as may be appropriate, to include State and Territory governments, in order to address concerns raised by the Queensland Government in its submission.

The Government will ensure that consultation takes place with all State and Territory Governments and other stakeholders in relation to the development of a National Plan of Implementation and a National Action Plan dealing with unintentionally emitted POPs. These National Plans fulfil obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The Government will continue to undertake consultation throughout implementation of the Stockholm Convention, consistent with its approach in consideration of ratification.