

Introduction

Purpose of 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 4 March 2003¹ specifically:
- *Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement, done at Singapore on 17 February 2003, and associated Exchange of Notes;*
 - *Amendments, done at Santiago, in November 2002, to Appendices I And II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, of 3 March 1973;*
 - *Annex IV: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships (revised) of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Amended (MARPOL 73/78), done at London, 17 February 1978, revised text adopted at London, 13 March 2000;*
 - *International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, done at London on 18 October 2001.*

¹ See *Senate Journal*, 4 March 2003, p. 513-1514 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 4 March 2003, p. 753-754.

Briefing documents

- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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

- 1.4 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 such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.5 The Committee also took evidence at public hearings held on 24 March and 16 June 2003. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearing 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 <http://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 19 March 2003. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.