



Report 69 – Amendments to Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling

Treaties Committee supports Amendments to International Whaling Convention

Mrs Margaret May MP, Acting Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, today (Monday 5 December) tabled *Report 69*, which includes support for Amendments to the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

The Amendments will continue the international moratorium on commercial whaling established under the Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Australia has been an advocate of whale conservation measures since 1979 with the closure of the last Australian shore-based whaling operation.

In addition, Australia's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) currently provides a higher level of protection for whales than is provided under the Convention and prohibits killing, injury or interfering with whales in Australian waters.

The Committee received evidence that under the latest Japan Antarctic Research Program-JARPA II, Japan will more than double its harvest of minke whales from 440-harvested last season to 935 this season from Antarctic waters and another 10 fin whales annually over the course of the two-year duration of JARPA II.

"The Committee heard that Australia has developed non lethal methods for scientific whale research and is promoting these to Japan while also continuing to actively recruit additional member countries to the Whaling Convention to support the conservation of whales. These measures are strongly supported by the Committee," Mrs May said.

In addition to the above treaty action, *Report 69: Treaties tabled on 13 September and 11 October 2005* outlines the Committee's review and recommendation that binding treaty action be taken in relation to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Report 69 is available on the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/report.htm>

or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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