



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Ms Julie Bishop MP
Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVED
- 4 FEB 2003

BY:.....

Dear Ms Bishop

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2002 regarding the proposed treaties that are being reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Your letter invited comment on a number of treaties including:

- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), done at Rome on 3 November 2001;
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, done at Vienna on 5 September 1997; and
- Amendment, done at Cambridge, United Kingdom on 14 October 2002, to the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, done at Washington on 2 December 1946.

The ACT will not be making a submission to the Committee on these matters, other than to say that, in relation to the International Treaty on PGRFA, the ACT acknowledges the implications for Australian agriculture of failing to ratify. Australia's interests can only be protected by participating in the deliberations of the Treaty's Governing Body, to be established following the Treaty's entry into force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the treaties under inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

17 JAN 2003

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY