

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

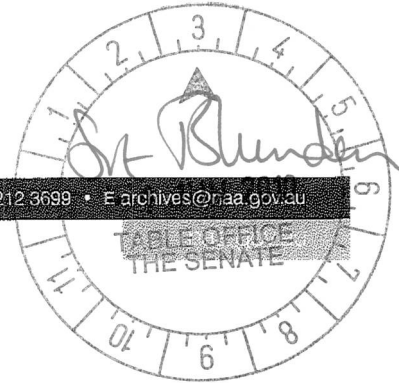
Inquiry into the development of a digital repository and electronic distribution of the Parliamentary Paper Series

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION NUMBER: 9

SUBMITTER: National Archives of Australia

SUB 9



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Ms Sue Blunden
Secretary
Joint Committee on Publications
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sue Blunden.

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2010 in which you invite comments in relation to the Inquiry into the Distribution of the Parliamentary Paper Series (PPS).

The Archives strongly supports making the PPS available electronically and it is unfortunate that due to the limited time available to us we are unable to address the Inquiry's Terms of Reference in detail.

Documents included in the Parliamentary Papers Series are Class A Parliamentary papers, and are not subject to Part V, Divisions 2 or 3 of the *Archives Act 1983*, ie those Divisions which cover transfer, disposal and access. We do, however, provide the following comments in the hope that they will be useful.

The Archives notes that the Terms of Reference include consideration of a digital repository. Our experience in this area has identified a number of issues relating to the maintenance of records in electronic formats, particularly the long-term archival requirements, to ensure that they will be accessible over decades and even centuries. The Archives has experience and research that is relevant to the committee's considerations and would be able to provide further advice to it in this matter.

Although outside the direct responsibility of the Archives, we are aware that there may be obligations in relation to the PPS as publications under the Copyright Act and respectfully suggest that the committee may also wish to consider these.

The Archives would be happy to provide the committee with any general information management advice that may be relevant and of assistance.

Yours,

Ross Gibbs

Ross Gibbs PSM
Director-General

31 May 2010