



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

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MEDIA RELEASE

Treaties Committee supports ratification of agreement on Singapore's use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area

Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Treaties today (Wednesday 17 August) tabled *Report 66* which includes a recommendation that Australia ratify an agreement allowing the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to continue its use of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

Australia has entered into similar agreements with Singapore since 1995 regarding the use of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. The Agreement is mutually beneficial for Australia and Singapore. Australia will benefit from exercises involving the use of SAF's sophisticated technology and Singapore will benefit as it has no domestic training areas. Further the agreement is expected to benefit local industry through increased access to commercial arrangements with SAF.

'The Agreement will contribute to Australia's bilateral defence relationship with Singapore and promote Australia's policy of increasing regional security', Dr Southcott said.

Report 66: Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (4), 15 March and 11 May 2005 outlines the Committee's review and recommendations that binding treaty action be taken in relation to eight other treaty actions. These include: an agreement establishing maritime boundaries with New Zealand; Amendments to the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement; and a measure to establish the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Report 66 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.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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