



Australia provides advice on nuclear technology

Federal Parliament’s Treaties Committee will examine the extension of an international treaty aimed at improving regional cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear material.

Australia has been a signatory to the treaty, aimed at strengthening the ability of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to safely and securely use radioactive materials for peaceful purposes. In order to remain a party to it, Australia needs to ratify an extension to the *Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training relating to Nuclear Science and Technology*. The principle behind the Agreement is that the signatories cooperate with each other to promote research, development and training projects in nuclear science and technology.

Committee Chair Kelvin Thomson MP said that the Agreement helps strengthen the expertise of countries to safely handle radioactive materials, the need for which was clearly highlighted last year in the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

“After speaking to government officials about the benefits of Australia sharing its expertise in handling peaceful nuclear technologies within the region, the committee will hear from the Australian Conservation Foundation, which believes that not enough is being done to halt nuclear weapons proliferation under this Agreement and the associated *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*.”

The committee will also examine amendments to a treaty dealing with international tax matters and an extension to an agreement between Australia and the United States concerning cooperation in defence logistics support.

Public Hearing: Monday 18 June 2012, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra — All welcome

- 9.15am Fifth Agreement to Extend the 1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (Bali, 15 April 2011)
(9.45am Australian Conservation Foundation)
- 10.15am Exchange of Notes, done at Canberra on 9 December 2011, constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America to amend and extend the Agreement concerning Cooperation in Defense Logistics Support, done at Sydney on 4 November 1989 (Canberra, 9 December 2011)
- 10.45am Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (Strasbourg 25 January 1988) Text amended by the provisions of the Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, which entered into force on 1 June 2011 Signed for Australia 3 November 2011
- 11.15am Close

Copies of the *National Interest Analysis* and treaty texts are available under Treaties tabled on 20 March and 8 June 2012 at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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