

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This Report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of seven treaty actions tabled in Parliament on 11 October 2005¹, 28 February² and 28 March 2006.³ These treaty actions are:

11 October 2005⁴

- *Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection*

28 February 2006⁵

- *Exchange of Notes Constituting a Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore to amend the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement*

1 Australia, House of Representatives 2004-05-06, *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 60, p. 659; Australia, Senate 2004-06, *Journal*, No. 51, p. 1228.

2 Australia, House of Representatives 2004-05-06, *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 87, p. 979; Australia, Senate 2004-06, *Journal*, No. 73, p. 1902.

3 Australia, House of Representatives 2004-05-06, *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 91, p. 1026; Australia, Senate 2004-06, *Journal*, No. 77, p. 1993.

4 The review of the remaining treaty tabled on 11 October 2005 is included in the Committee's Report 69.

5 The remaining treaties tabled in February 2006 are included in the Committee's Report 73.

28 March 2006⁶

- *Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage*
- *International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage*
- *Agreement establishing the Pacific Islands Forum*
- *Amendments to Annexes VIII and IX of the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)*
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand in relation to Mutual Recognition of Securities Offerings*

Briefing documents

- 1.2 The advice in this Report refers to the National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for the proposed treaty actions. These documents are prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty. Copies of the NIAs may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/11october2005/tor.htm

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/february2006/tor.htm

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/28march2006/tor.htm

- 1.3 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs may also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at:

www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/

⁶ The *Agreement for Establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust* was also tabled on 28 March 2006 and included in the Committee's Report 74. The Committee has deferred consideration of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Development* and the *Exchange of Letters constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand to Amend Article 3 of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)* pending further information.

Conduct of the Committee's review

1.4 The Review contained in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.⁷ Letters were also sent inviting comment from all State Premiers, Chief Ministers, Presiding Members of Parliament and from individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.

1.5 The Committee also received evidence at public hearings held on 7 November 2005, 27 February, 27 March and 8 May 2006. A list of witnesses who appeared before the Committee at these public hearings is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearings may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/11october2005/hearings.htm

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/february2006/hearings.htm

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/28march2006/hearings.htm

⁷ The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 19 October and 2 November 2005, 22 February, 8 March, 5 and 19 April 2006. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee, both in the advertisement and via the Committee's website.

