



Review of Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by Andrew Southcott, will hold a public hearing on Monday 8 May to examine the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum.

This Agreement revises the 2000 Agreement and establishes the Forum as an international organisation. The Agreement provides for associate membership of the forum to encourage closer contact with non-sovereign Pacific territories whose constitutional arrangements would not usually permit full membership. In addition, other territories on the invitation of Forum Leaders may be included as Forum Observers.

“The Forum may allow for more intense exchange between pacific neighbours in areas such as trade, security, and economic issues. The Committee will review the proposed treaty action and consider whether it should enter into force,” Dr Southcott said.

Seven other treaties will also be examined and are listed below. The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra on Monday, 8 May 2006 from 10.00 am**. The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service on Channel 10, radio frequency 98.3MHz and on the Parliament House website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp#>

Further information about the inquiry is available on the Committee’s website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/28march2006/index.htm>

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM – 10.00 am-12.30 pm, 8 May 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, second floor, Parliament House, Canberra

- 10.00 am** Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992 and the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001
- 10.30 am** Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum
- 10.50 am** Amendments to Annexes VIII and IX of the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1992
- 11.10 am** Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Development
- 11.30 am** Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand in relation to Mutual Recognition of Securities Offerings
- 11.50 am** 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
- 12.10 pm** Agreement for the Establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust

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