



Public hearing on extradition agreement with India

An extradition treaty with India will be examined by Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee in a public hearing in Canberra on Monday (22 February). These treaties are designed to ensure that criminals cannot evade justice simply by crossing borders and this one with India will add to Australia's existing network of modern bilateral extradition treaties with 35 other countries.

The treaty will modernise and strengthen extradition arrangements between Australia and India, and is intended to provide a responsive and streamlined extradition system that effectively combats domestic and transnational crime. The agreement differs from Australia's other modern bilateral agreements by requiring a higher level of evidentiary information to support an extradition request than the current internationally accepted 'no evidence' standard.

The Committee will also examine an agreement with India on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. India is an important partner in efforts to combat transnational crime in South Asia and this treaty will enable Australia and India to better assist each other in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, fraud, money laundering and people trafficking. Australia has similar agreements with 25 other countries.

The third treaty to be examined by the Committee is amendments to Annex II of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. These amendments will strengthen protection of the Antarctic environment and its dependent ecosystems by extending the protection that already exists for native mammals, birds and plants to also include invertebrates. It will also improve listing processes for Specially Protected Species and strengthen provisions relating to the introduction of non-native species and diseases into Antarctica.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

10.00am – 11.15am, Monday, 22 February 2010

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

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| 10.00am | Extradition Treaty between Australia and the Republic of India, and
Treaty between Australia and the Republic of India on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters |
| 10.45am | Measure 16 (2009) Amendment of Annex II to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty |
| 11.15am | Close |

This hearing will be broadcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>
Further information is available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/jsct

MEDIA CONTACTS

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