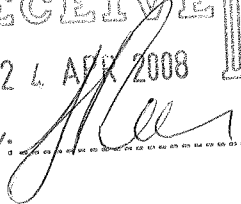


Submission 3
TT 12 March 2008

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24 APR 2008
BY: 



CHIEF MINISTER

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
chief.minister@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8901 4000
Facsimile: 08 8901 4099

The Hon Kelvin Thompson MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2008 in which you invite comment on a number of proposed treaty actions that were tabled in the Federal Parliament on 12 March 2008.

In this context, I refer in particular to the proposed *Withdrawal of Australia's exemption for the use of mirex under Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*.

At the time that Australia ratified the Convention, mirex was used by the horticultural industry in the tropical areas of the Northern Territory to control the giant termite (*Mastotermes darwiniensis*). Since then, as a result of research effort facilitated by the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, it has been possible to phase out the use of mirex in favour of alternative pesticides based on the chemical fipronil.

Yours sincerely



PAUL HENDERSON

23/4/08

