

**Joint Senate Committee on Treaties**  
**Question on Notice**

Public hearing of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the European Space Agency for a Co-operative Space Vehicle Tracking Program* and the *Implementing Arrangement between the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research of the Government of Australia and the European Space Agency concerning ESA's Space Tracking Activities in Australia*.

**Question from Sentaor Fawcett:** Who actually signs off on the terms of those subordinate agreements; and what assurance does this committee have that that authority has due process to take into account appropriate consultation with stakeholders, community, local government, other users of spectrum et cetera?

**Answer:** The Implementing Arrangement is between the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, now the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) and the European Space Agency (ESA). Amendments or modifications to the Implementing Arrangement may occur through mutual determination between ESA and DIISRTE. An amendment would be formalised via an exchange of letters between the parties.

In considering an amendment to the Implementing Arrangement, DIISRTE would consult with relevant Australian Government and State Government agencies to ensure whole-of-government consideration of the proposal. In particular, the amendment would be carefully reviewed to ensure consistency with the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and European Space Agency for a Co-operative Space Vehicle Tracking Program* as required under Article 4.1 of the Agreement.