

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES REPORT NO 111
ON THE AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF
WILD ANIMALS**

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts review its consultation processes for environmental treaties to ensure that more effective consultation is undertaken with a full range of potentially interested parties.

Government Response

Noted.

The now Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities agrees that consultations undertaken in future, particularly for amendments to the Appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, will encompass the full range of potentially interested parties. It is noted that past consultation practices may have led to some segments of the community not being consulted on matters that may have potentially affected them until after critical decisions had been made.

In future, the department will undertake extensive consultation with all potentially interested and affected parties prior to any formal government support, or otherwise, being provided on the issue in relation to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species. It will include consultations with relevant Commonwealth departments, State and Territory management agencies, environmental non-government organisations and other non-government organisations, as relevant.

The Committee will be pleased to note that the department has already implemented some of these practices in relation to another Convention – the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). In the lead up to the recent Conference of Parties in March 2010 (CoP15), the department formally invited interest in participating on the Australian delegation from Commonwealth, State and Territory government, environment non-government organisations and industry. Formal consultation inviting comments on the listing proposals and agenda items for CoP15 was undertaken through letters to key stakeholders and an invitation for public comment posted on the department's website.