

PREFACE

This inquiry has occupied the Committee for a considerable period of time, due primarily to the large volume of information that was generated during the inquiry and the Committee concurrently undertaking a large number of inquiries that had been referred by the Senate. The genesis of the inquiry is outlined at the start of the report.

The considerable volume of information and evidence provided to the Committee was indicative of the considerable passion that has been aroused by this matter surrounding the PET Review of 2000 and subsequent events. To ensure that all the evidence is on the public record, the Committee has authorised the publication of all the PET related information and correspondence that it received and tabled this evidence with the report.

The passage of time since the 2000 Review has resulted in very strongly held views being formed and these were expressed in evidence.

Committee members accepted these views and interpretations of events to differing degrees. Often they were not assisted in their deliberations by the extant records and minutes of meetings at the time not recording actual decisions and discussions.

This report is therefore in two main parts. The first report outlines the extent of agreement of the majority of the Committee. The minority report uses the same report as its base and adds further comments as agreed to by Senators Milne and Allison.

