

Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

1.1 The Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2007 was introduced into the House of Representatives on 15 August 2007 and into the Senate the following day. The bill was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics for report by 5 September 2007.

Conduct of the inquiry

1.3 The committee advertised the inquiry in the *Australian* newspaper on 21 June 2007 and invited written submissions by 24 August 2007. Details of the inquiry were placed on the committee's website. The committee also wrote to a number of organisations and stakeholder groups inviting written submissions.

1.4 The committee received 22 submissions. These are listed in Appendix 1. A public hearing was held in Adelaide on 28 July 2007, at which Treasury gave evidence by teleconference. Witnesses who presented evidence at this hearing are listed in Appendix 2.

1.5 The committee thanks those who participated in this inquiry.

