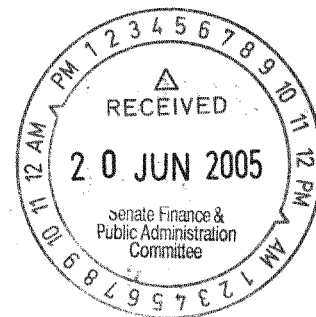




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



17 June 2005

Mr Alistair Sands  
Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration  
References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA 2600

**Inquiry into Matters Relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula**

Dear Mr Sands

At the hearings of the above inquiry on 17 June 2005, I was asked by Senator Foreshaw to provide, on notice, advice on the precise meaning of the word "free" with respect to article 135 of the Treaty of Lausanne 1923. I am advised that such advice would be an interpretation of the text of the treaty and would therefore amount to legal advice. I am further advised that under Senate Standing Order 73 the department is unable to provide legal advice for the committee.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Newman  
First Assistant Secretary  
Americas and Europe Division