



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



14 July 2005

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

Dear Mr Sands

**Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula**

I refer to your letter of 21 June 2005 concerning the request of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for this department to provide legal advice concerning the Treaty of Lausanne.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has decided that this department should decline the committee's request to provide the advice, on the grounds that it has been a longstanding practice accepted by successive Australian governments not to disclose legal advice which has been provided to government, unless there are compelling reasons to do so in a particular case.

Accordingly, I will not be in a position to provide the committee with a copy of the advice requested.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeremy Newman'.

Jeremy Newman  
First Assistant Secretary  
Americas and Europe Division