



Tasmania

PREMIER



Senator Nigel Scullion
Acting Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Scullion

I refer to your correspondence of 4 November 2005, regarding the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee Inquiry into the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005 (the Bill).

I am satisfied that the Bill reflects the agreement made by State, Territory and Commonwealth Leaders at the special meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 27 September 2005, including the agreement that the Bill should contain appropriate safeguards. I have formally advised the Prime Minister that Tasmania supports the Bill.

In particular, I consider the provisions are sufficient to satisfy our agreement that the Bill provides for judicial review of decisions, legal representation, a five-year review by COAG and a sunset clause. The proposals for strengthened powers and offences to combat terrorism are evidence-based, intelligence-led and proportionate to the threat posed by terrorism. The so-called 'shoot-to-kill' provisions were removed from the legislation at the insistence of States and Territories.

The Bill achieves a balance between the powers of law enforcement agencies and rights of individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Paul Lennon
Premier

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