

Honourable Senators

I refer to the Bill, Anti-Terrorism (No. 2) Bill 2005

I understand and do NOT argue with the need for a strengthening of the powers available to the Law Enforcement and Intelligence agencies in the fight against terrorism.

I support many of the provisions of the legislation, as I understand it.

What concerns me most and what I ask you to consider, is the period for review covered under Section 4 of the Bill

4 Review of anti-terrorism laws

(1) The Council of Australian Governments agreed on 27 September 2005 that the Council would, after 5 years, review the operation of:

- (a) the amendments made by Schedules 1, 3, 4 and 5; and
- (b) certain State laws.

This legislation if enacted and mis-applied could have a large impact on Australian society. The last times that I am aware of where such strong laws were passed were in pre-apartheid South Africa and in Nazi Germany. In each case, the legislation was passed due to a high level of risk from dangerous persons or groups (Coloureds in South Africa and Jews and Communists in Germany).

I request that the Senate Committee recommend to both Houses that the period for review be reduced to a maximum of 3 years and that the legislation should actually terminate after that time without approval by the Parliaments of Australia and the States.

I thank you for your time in this matter

Advance Australia

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