

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 On 28 October 2009, the Senate referred the provisions of the Personal Property Securities (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2009 to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 23 November 2009.

1.2 The Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 21 October 2009 by the Attorney-General, the Hon. Robert McClelland MP. The government states that:

This bill will amend 25 Commonwealth acts that deal with the creation, registration, priority, extinguishment or enforcement of interests in personal property.

...

This bill also makes minor amendments to the Personal Property Securities Bill 2009, which was passed by the House on 16 September.

Conduct of the inquiry

1.3 The committee advertised the inquiry in *The Australian* newspaper on 4 November 2009. Details of the inquiry, the Bill and associated documents were placed on the committee's website. The committee also wrote, on 29 October 2009, to 75 organisations and individuals inviting submissions by 9 November 2009.

1.4 The committee received 10 submissions which are listed at Appendix 1. Submissions were placed on the committee's website for ease of access by the public.

1.5 The committee held a public hearing in Melbourne on 10 November 2009. A list of witnesses who appeared at the hearings is at Appendix 2, and copies of the Hansard transcript are available through the internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard>.

Scope of the report

1.6 The structure of the report is as follows:

- Chapter 2 describes the background to the inquiry and comments on the major themes arising in relation to the bill; and
- Chapter 3 outlines particular issues raised with the committee about the bill.

Acknowledgement

1.7 The committee thanks those organisations and individuals who made submissions and gave evidence at the public hearings.

Note on references

References in this report are to individual submissions as received by the committee, not to a bound volume. References to the Committee Hansard are to the proof Hansard: page numbers may vary between the proof and the official Hansard transcript.