



THE SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

23 July 2010

Senator the Hon John Hogg
President of the Senate

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INTERCEPTION AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2010**

Background

On 24 June 2010, the Senate referred the provisions of the Telecommunications Interception and Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 (Bill) to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 21 September 2010.

The Bill sought to amend the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*, the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979* and the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* to enable greater cooperation, assistance and information sharing within Australia's law enforcement and national security communities. In particular, the Bill would have enabled the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, the Defence Signals Directorate, and the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation to more closely cooperate in the performance of their respective functions.

Conduct of the inquiry

The committee advertised the inquiry in *The Australian* newspaper on 30 June 2010 and 14 July 2010, and invited submissions by 10 August 2010. Details of the inquiry, the Bill and associated documents were placed on the committee's website. The committee also wrote to approximately 70 organisations and individuals.

The committee did not receive any submissions for this inquiry.

On 19 July 2010, the Governor-General prorogued the 42nd Parliament and dissolved the House of Representatives. Accordingly, the committee has resolved not to continue its inquiry into the provisions of the Bill. This decision is consistent with the approach to inquiries during elections adopted by other Senate committees. If the Bill is reintroduced in the new parliament, the Senate can again refer it to the committee for inquiry.

Senator Trish Crossin
Chair