

Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the Territories Law Reform Bill 2010 (the Bill) is to:
- provide for the implementation of reforms to strengthen Norfolk Island governance arrangements and transparency, and improve the accountability of the Government of Norfolk Island and its Administration; and
 - amend the *Christmas Island Act 1958* (Cwlth) and the *Cocos (Keeling) Act 1955* (Cwlth) 'to provide a vesting mechanism for powers and functions under Western Australian (WA) laws applied in the Indian Ocean Territories' (IOTs) leading to greater efficiency in the administration of service delivery arrangements.¹

Background

- 1.2 In May 2009, the then Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus MP, announced a proposed package of reforms to governance and administrative arrangements for Norfolk Island. It was envisaged that the reforms would be implemented in consultation with the Government of Norfolk Island, its Administration and the Norfolk Island community. The aim of the reforms was to improve governance arrangements and increase the accountability and transparency of the Government of Norfolk Island and its Administration.²
- 1.3 Specifically the reforms would:

1 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 3.

2 B Debus (Minister for Home Affairs), *Open letter to the Norfolk Island Community*, media release, Parliament House, Canberra, 28 May 2009.

- allow the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to operate on Norfolk Island and provides for judicial review of decisions made by the Norfolk Island Administration
 - apply the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cwlth) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth) to information held by the Norfolk Island Government and its Administration. This would include a role for the Commonwealth Privacy Commissioner.
 - allow the Administrator of Norfolk Island to access a greater range of advice when presented with bills for assent under Schedule 2 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979* (Cwlth)
 - allow the Governor-General and the Territories Minister to take a more active role in the introduction and passage of Norfolk Island legislation
 - provide for changes to the process for the election of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly
 - provide for the selection of and prescribe the roles of Chief Minister and other Ministers
 - include enacting a code of conduct for Members of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly
 - provide for fixed terms for the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly
 - implement a contemporary financial management framework including provision for contemporary guidelines for financial reporting and budgeting and auditing of the Administration's financial statements by the Commonwealth Auditor-General.
- 1.4 In addition, *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island* (the 2003 report), was the first of two reports relating to Norfolk Island governance and financial arrangements by the committee. While the 2003 report examined governance arrangements for Norfolk Island, the second report entitled *The Challenge: Sink or swim* examined ways of achieving financial sustainability for Norfolk Island.
- 1.5 The 2003 report made recommendations aimed at improving the transparency and accountability of Norfolk Island administrative, governance and financial arrangements. This would entail implementation of a comprehensive Administrative law review system, in addition to possible changes to the governance and financial frameworks.
- 1.6 In February 2009, Minister Debus acknowledged the progress by the Government of Norfolk Island in implementing a new administrative complaints system. Further, Minister Debus commented on discussions

with the Government of Norfolk Island regarding strengthening transparency and accountability measures, especially in relation to future appointment of the Commonwealth Ombudsman. Minister Debus stated:

This is a step in the right direction which paves the way for the Commonwealth Ombudsman to be appointed to handle matters of a serious nature arising out of the new Administrative Complaints System. Strong accountability and anti-corruption checks and balances are essential to any modern government.³

- 1.7 In regard to the discussions between the Government of Norfolk Island and the Minister for Home Affairs, the Chief Minister of Norfolk Island commented that there was agreement on areas of the Norfolk Island Act which could be further examined and amended. The Chief Minister stated:

There was significant agreement on areas of the Norfolk Island Act which could be further examined and amended to improve accountability. The Commonwealth has offered us assistance in implementing these changes.⁴

- 1.8 In May 2009, following the announced proposed reforms for Norfolk Island, the Chief Minister stated that he welcomed moves towards greater transparency and accountability to strengthen Norfolk Island's administrative and financial systems to improve long term stability. The Chief Minister stated:

While there are many areas of detail still to be settled, in general I welcome the decisions by the Commonwealth to share in our moves toward greater transparency and accountability and to work together for structural change which will strengthen our administrative and financial systems and lay the foundations for long term stability in our mutual relationship. I have continually reported to the Norfolk Island community that we have moved in many areas to build stronger transparency and accountability mechanisms but needed the cooperation of the Commonwealth in undertaking legislative and programme changes ... to make further progress. The Commonwealth has now agreed to both

3 B Debus (Minister for Home Affairs) and A Nobbs (Chief Minister), Joint Media Release, *Discussions Progress on Norfolk Island Reforms*, Parliament House, Canberra and Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Kingston, 27 February 2009.

4 B Debus (Minister for Home Affairs) and A Nobbs (Chief Minister), Joint Media Release, *Discussions Progress on Norfolk Island Reforms*, Parliament House, Canberra and Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Kingston, 27 February 2009.

make the necessary changes and to provide the funding to ensure that they are effective.⁵

- 1.9 The Chief Minister also acknowledged the need for a more sophisticated financial and information technology system to enable forward strategic and budget planning. The Chief Minister stated:

We have recognised for a long time the need for more sophisticated financial and information technology systems, but lacked some of the specific internal expertise and financial resources to implement integrated change across the whole public sector”, Mr Nobbs said. “In my discussions with Minister Debus, I have raised our need for assistance with training, hardware and software to greatly enhance our financial management and IT systems and provide us with much better data to enable forward strategic and budget planning.⁶

Purpose and overview of the Bill

- 1.10 There are three schedules contained in the Bill. Schedule 1 consists of seven parts and amends a number of Commonwealth Acts. Schedules 2 and 3 of the Bill will amend the *Christmas Island Act 1958* (Cwlth) and the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955* (Cwlth).
- 1.11 In particular, Schedule 1 of the Bill will amend a range of Commonwealth legislation to improve Norfolk Island governance arrangements and strengthen the accountability of the Norfolk Island Government.
- 1.12 Schedules 2 and 3 of the Bill will provide a vesting mechanism for powers and functions under WA laws applied to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- 1.13 Proposed Schedule 1, Parts 1 and 2 will:
- Reform the electoral system for the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly including prescribing minimum and maximum terms.
 - Prescribe a process for selection of Chief Minister and Ministers including outlining their roles and responsibilities.

5 A Nobbs (Chief Minister), *Norfolk Island Self Government achieves greater maturity and transparency: Chief Minister*, Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Kingston, 29 May 2009.

6 A Nobbs (Chief Minister), *Norfolk Island Self Government achieves greater maturity and transparency: Chief Minister*, Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Kingston, 29 May 2009.

- Provide the Administrator with additional avenues to seek advice in regard to Bills for assent under Schedule 2 of the Norfolk Island Act.
 - Provide a mechanism for the Governor-General and Territories Minister to participate more actively in regard to the passage of Norfolk Island legislation.
- 1.14 Proposed Schedule 1, Part 3 will:
- Provide for the implementation of a customised and proportional financial management framework. This financial framework will allow for the 'responsible management of public funds, property, budget formulation, financial reporting, annual reporting and procurement.
 - Extend the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Auditor-General to Norfolk Island and allow for the possibility of the appointment of a Commonwealth Financial Officer for Norfolk Island.
- 1.15 Proposed Schedule 1, Part 4 will amend the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* (Cwlth) to apply the powers and procedures under the Act to Norfolk Island enactments.
- 1.16 Proposed Schedule 1, Part 5 will amend the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cwlth) to allow residents of Norfolk Island to have the right to access information held by Norfolk Island Government agencies.
- 1.17 Proposed Schedule 1, Part 6 will allow the Commonwealth Ombudsman to perform the functions of the Norfolk Island Ombudsman upon enactment by either the Commonwealth Parliament or the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. This includes the provision of reporting requirements.
- 1.18 Proposed Schedule 1, Part 7 will allow for the provisions under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth) to be applied to information held by the Norfolk Island Government and Administration.
- 1.19 Proposed Schedules 2 and 3 will amend the *Christmas Island Act 1958* (Cwlth) and the *Cocos (Keeling) Act 1955* (Cwlth) to allow WA Government officers engaged under service delivery arrangements to be automatically vested with the powers required to perform their job.

General comments about the Bill

Consultation

Norfolk Island

- 1.20 There were two main consultation periods undertaken and coordinated by the Attorney-General's Department on behalf of the Government in regard to the package of reforms for Norfolk Island.⁷
- 1.21 Consultation with the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Administration and community was undertaken in October 2009 in regard to the proposed reforms to administrative law and again in mid February 2010 after the exposure draft of the Bill was released for comment.⁸
- 1.22 In December 2009, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP visited Norfolk Island to discuss possible reforms with the Norfolk Island Government and community. At this time, the Minister advised the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly 'that the Bill was scheduled for introduction in the autumn sittings, and that on-island consultation would occur early in' 2010.⁹
- 1.23 On 12 February 2010, the exposure draft of the Bill was made available to Norfolk Island. From 15-17 February 2010,¹⁰ officers of the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Finance and Deregulation met with Members of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly on the exposure draft of the Bill. The closing date to receive submissions or comment on the Bill was 25 February 2010.¹¹
- 1.24 A total of 119 submissions were received from Norfolk Island in regard to the exposure draft Bill consultation and 'were used to inform further amendments to the exposure draft Bill prior to its introduction into Parliament on 17 March 2010.'¹²
- 1.25 On 24 March 2010, the consultation period on the Bill was extended to 16 April 2010.¹³

7 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 5.

8 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 5.

9 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7.1*, p. 23.

10 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 4.

11 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 5.

12 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 5.

13 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 5.

- 1.26 Members of the Norfolk Island 12th and 13th Legislative Assemblies have since expressed their concern that the timeframe for lodging submissions was too short and that a draft explanatory memorandum to the Bill was not made available during the consultation process.¹⁴
- 1.27 In particular, the Government of Norfolk Island commented that:
- The inference arising from a lack of local consultation is that the architects and implementers of the Bill overstate their understanding of Norfolk Island conditions. This lack of understanding can be overcome by bona fide local consultation but not by mere reading and uncritical adoption of external reports such as the 2003 *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes* Report. This particular report was the subject of quite serious criticism by previous Commonwealth and Norfolk Island governments as to its methodology in giving credence and emphasis to untested, confidential and unreliable evidence given to the committee of the day.¹⁵
- 1.28 The Government of Norfolk Island advocated that:
- Detailed consultation, in many cases already requested but not commenced, needs to be given the time and resources to be properly and thoroughly completed.¹⁶
- 1.29 Further, the Government of Norfolk Island was of the strong view that the reforms for Norfolk Island required time and effort to engage in consultation prior to implementation. The Government of Norfolk Island stated:
- The Norfolk Island Government is strongly of the view that the Commonwealth will only succeed in its goals of improving Norfolk Island's governance arrangements and strengthen the accountability of the Norfolk Island Government if it takes the time and makes the effort to consult with the Norfolk Island Government in a timely and bona fide manner.¹⁷
- 1.30 The Commonwealth Government stated that the extension of the consultation period to 16 April 2010 was intended to 'ensure that a
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14 Government of Norfolk Island, 12th Legislative Assembly, *Submission in relation to the Exposure Draft Territories Law Reform Bill 2010*, Exhibit 4, p. 1; Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 5 and 41; Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6.1*, p. 7; Government of Norfolk Island, Hon David Buffett, *Transcript T1*, p. 3.

15 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 41.

16 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 4.

17 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 38.

rigorous, good faith consultation is undertaken on this significant Bill, including providing the incoming members of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly the opportunity to provide comments.’¹⁸

- 1.31 In addition, on the closing date of the extended consultation period, the Minister for Home Affairs stated:

The additional comments received from the community reaffirm the need for the Australian Government to continue with these important reforms.¹⁹

Indian Ocean Territories

- 1.32 The provisions in the proposed Bill relating to Australia’s IOTs of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands will not have a direct impact on the IOTs communities. In this respect, the Attorney-General’s Department held discussions with officers of the WA Government, the Australian Government Solicitor and the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to develop the Bill.²⁰
- 1.33 On 19 March 2010, the Attorney-General’s Department invited the IOTs Shires and communities to provide comment to the Bill.²¹

Development of regulations

- 1.34 The proposed Bill provides for regulations to be made in regard to changes to Norfolk Island’s financial framework, the electoral system, the Public Service Values and ‘the specification of decisions under Norfolk Island legislation which may be subject to merit review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.’²²
- 1.35 The Attorney-General’s Department advised the applicable regulations would override any inconsistent Norfolk Island regulations as ‘any other outcome would result in legislative inconsistencies and confusion as to rights, responsibilities and obligations’ under the Norfolk Island Act. The Attorney-General’s Department stated:

18 Attorney-General’s Department, *Submission 7.1*, p. 25.

19 B O’Connor (Minister for Home Affairs), *Minister welcomes input from Norfolk Island on Territories Law Reform Bill*, media release, Parliament House, Canberra, 16 April 2010.

20 Attorney-General’s Department, *Submission 7*, pp 5 and 6; Attorney-General’s Department, Mr Julian Yates, *Transcript T2*, p. 8.

21 Attorney-General’s Department, *Submission 7.1*, p. 24.

22 Attorney-General’s Department, Mr Julian Yates, *Transcript T2*, p. 4.

The bill provides for the making of regulations in respect of a number of issues, such as the financial frameworks, the electoral system, the Norfolk Island Public Service Values and the specification of decisions under Norfolk Island legislation which may be subject to merits review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Arrangements have already commenced to form a Commonwealth and Norfolk Island officer level working group to develop the regulations to support the financial management and accountability reforms contained in the Territories Law Reform Bill. It is anticipated that a similar process will be used in respect of the remaining regulations. To ensure the successful operation of the provisions the Commonwealth regulations will by necessity override any inconsistent Norfolk Island regulation. Any other outcome would result in legislative inconsistencies and confusion as to rights, responsibilities and obligations under the act.²³

- 1.36 The Government of Norfolk Island was concerned that draft regulations had not been provided during the exposure draft Bill consultation and stated:

Notwithstanding that much of the regulatory changes regarding finance and electoral changes were to be contained in regulations, which in some cases override the Norfolk Island Act, no draft regulations were (or have since been) provided.²⁴

- 1.37 The Government of Norfolk Island was of the view that 'the lack of detail, incomplete information on regulations and procedures as well as extremely limited time hampers the Government's ability to make detailed and meaningful comment.' The Government of Norfolk Island advocated delaying passage of the Bill until further consultation was conducted and stated:

It is reasonable to expect that 'constitutional' change of this magnitude should not proceed without detailed and reasoned consultation.²⁵

- 1.38 A working group consisting of officers from the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Finance and Deregulation, representatives of the Government of Norfolk Island and Administration are currently

23 Attorney-General's Department, Mr Julian Yates, *Transcript T2*, p. 4.

24 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 5.

25 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 6.

assisting with the development of the financial framework regulations. The working group is expected to meet again before July 2010.²⁶

- 1.39 The Department of Finance and Deregulation commented that regulations allow for new financial arrangements to be tailored and detailed and can be easily revised. The Department of Finance and Deregulation stated:

We really are trying to tailor the arrangements to be as clear, simple and effective as possible. That is why we believe that the better approach is through subsidiary legislation. I acknowledge there are comments that, if the primary act changes – and the details are yet to be seen and worked through – that will lead to some difficulty. The alternative would have been that we would be attempting to address these issues in legislation, potentially going to a level of detail in the primary act that needed to be subject to later adjustment as we learned better what we were trying to react to and also to really keep an eye to clarity and simplicity as we do that.²⁷

- 1.40 Regulations prescribing Norfolk Island Public Service Values and application of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to Norfolk Island are expected to be drafted by the end of 2010. No specific time frame was provided for the drafting of regulations regarding elections.
- 1.41 In regard to consultation on development of regulations, the Attorney-General's Department stated the Department of Finance and Deregulation, the Australian Electoral Commission and the Norfolk Island Government and Administration would be consulted during the drafting process.²⁸
- 1.42 In addition, the Attorney-General's Department stated that the Government of Norfolk Island and its Administration will be provided with 'the opportunity to comment on the draft regulations before they are registered.'²⁹
- 1.43 Additional discussion about regulations for specific areas of the Bill is contained in Chapters 2, 3 and 4.

Financial impact of the Bill

- 1.44 Amendments contained in the Bill are expected to have a minimal financial impact. The Bill will have resource implications for
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26 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 10.

27 Department of Finance and Deregulation, Mr Marc Mowbray-d'Arbela, *Transcript T2*, p. 15.

28 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 10.

29 Attorney-General's Department, *Submission 7*, p. 10.

Commonwealth agencies in relation to providing training and information for the Norfolk Island Administration and Government 'to ensure effective implementation of the Bill.'³⁰ This includes implementation of the new financial framework, freedom of information, privacy and other obligations under administrative law.³¹

1.45 The Government of Norfolk Island raised concerns about the possibility of bearing costs associated with implementation of various parts of the Bill.

1.46 In particular, the Government of Norfolk Island was concerned 'that many of the impositions contained in the Bill are marred by excessive complexity which, inevitably, will result in undue cost and delay.'³²

1.47 The Government of Norfolk Island advocated that 'consideration must be given at every stage to the impact on Norfolk Island financially, the potential impact of all such provisions on Norfolk Island laws, the operation of the Assembly, and the practicality of the provisions in terms of self government.'³³

1.48 In particular, the Government of Norfolk Island raised concerns about financial resource implications for the Administration that will arise from the imposition of Commonwealth Auditor-General requirements. The Government of Norfolk Island stated:

There are serious financial resource implications for the Administration that will arise from the imposition of Commonwealth Auditor-General requirements, the *Auditor-General Act 1997* and particularly in the context of regulations made under proposed new sections 48R and 48S. The Commonwealth will need to give early consideration to financial assistance to address costs of implementation, conversion and compliance with proposed changes.³⁴

1.49 The Attorney-General's Department advised that the Norfolk Island Government will not incur any costs associated with implementation of the Bill. In addition, Commonwealth agencies with relevant responsibility associated with the reforms contained in the Bill will continue to provide assistance to the Government of Norfolk Island and its Administration.³⁵

30 *Explanatory Memorandum, Financial Impact Statement*, p. 2.

31 *Explanatory Memorandum, Financial Impact Statement*, p. 2.

32 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 42.

33 Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 4.

34 The Government of Norfolk Island, *Submission 6*, p. 38.

35 Attorney-General's Department, Ms Alison Green, *Transcript T2*, p. 10.

- 1.50 The Attorney-General's Department expanded on the Commonwealth Government's commitment to implement the key reforms contained in the Bill. The Attorney-General's Department stated:

I cannot give specific commitments to any future appropriations that the Commonwealth may or may not apply to any activity, but our willingness to engage on island with the community, which compared to the past has significantly increased in the last 12 months; our bringing to the island the other agencies that are going to participate, such as the Ombudsman and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal; the willingness of the department of finance to contribute senior staff to help develop the financial framework, for example; and the commitment to work at the officer level to deliver the results give an indication of our intention to implement this effectively for the future.³⁶

Conclusions

- 1.51 Regulations relating to specific provisions in the proposed Bill will be developed through consultation with various Commonwealth agencies and Norfolk Island stakeholders.
- 1.52 The regulations will then be presented to the Parliament and be required to sit before the Parliament as disallowable instruments for a specified period of sitting days before entering into force. The regulations will also be subject to scrutiny by the Senate Regulations and Ordinances Committee.
- 1.53 The timeframe for development of the majority of regulations is by the end of 2010 with the exception of regulations relating to electoral reform.
- 1.54 While the committee acknowledges there will be future scrutiny of the regulations, the committee suggests it would be beneficial for Commonwealth agencies to continue to develop regulations in consultation with Norfolk Island stakeholders to specific timeframes. This may enable more meaningful and productive consultation with Norfolk Island stakeholders in regard to the implementation of the main parts of the Bill.
- 1.55 The committee acknowledges that the time taken for initial consultation on the draft exposure Bill with the Government of Norfolk was short, but notes that the Minister for Home Affairs extended this period to ensure that a more rigorous consultation was undertaken. The extended
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36 Attorney-General's Department, Mr Julian Yates, *Transcript T2*, p. 21.

timeframe for comment also provided the opportunity for incoming members of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly to provide comments.

- 1.56 In terms of the financial impact of implementation of various provisions under the Bill, the Attorney-General's Department provided an assurance that the Government of Norfolk Island will not incur any costs in terms of implementation. In addition, Commonwealth agencies with relevant responsibility associated with the reforms contained in the Bill will continue to provide assistance to the Government of Norfolk Island and its Administration.
- 1.57 Throughout the report, the evidence received suggests that while there were concerns raised in regard to specific areas of the Bill, the committee believes these concerns can be worked through within a short period through the established working group process.
- 1.58 More broadly, the reforms contained in the proposed Bill are the culmination of consultation that has been undertaken with various Norfolk Island stakeholders including past and present Norfolk Island Governments, the Administration and the Norfolk Island community over a number of years. In addition, issues concerning administrative law reform, governance, electoral and financial arrangements have been raised with the committee through a number of parliamentary inquiries.
- 1.59 Notwithstanding the comments made in regard to development of regulations associated with the Bill, the committee supports the general provisions of the Bill.

Recommendation 1

- 1.60 **The committee supports the general provisions of the Territories Law Reform Bill 2010 and recommends that the Bill be passed by the Senate.**

Recommendation 2

- 1.61 **The committee recommends that the Attorney-General's Department continue to consult with the Government of Norfolk Island, the Norfolk Island Administration and Norfolk Island community in regard to the content of regulations (including the timeframe for their development and entering into force) relating to the Territories Law Reform Bill 2010.**

Scope of the inquiry

- 1.62 The majority of the submissions received in reference to this inquiry relate to the proposed reforms relevant to Norfolk Island. While a number of submissions and evidence received supported the Bill, concerns were also raised regarding consultation of the exposure draft Bill and future implementation of the reforms contained in the Bill.
- 1.63 Notwithstanding the committee's comments about complementary issues raised during the course of the inquiry, the main focus of this inquiry is on the practicality of the components of the proposed Bill, rather than scrutiny of the policy aspects of the Bill.
- 1.64 The committee provided the Government of Norfolk Island and the Norfolk Island community with the opportunity to directly address issues associated with the Bill through a public hearing. The committee was also able to scrutinise the approach taken by the Commonwealth Government in formulating the Bill and also by the Attorney-General's Department in conducting consultation on the exposure draft bill and on the development of regulations through the working group process.
- 1.65 To ensure that the issues raised with the committee during the course of the inquiry are reported, the committee has included the additional issues raised by Norfolk Island residents in the final chapter of this report.

Conduct of the review

- 1.66 On 19 March 2010, a media release was issued announcing the inquiry and called for submissions to be received by 7 April 2010. Submissions were also sought by advertising the inquiry in *The Australian* on 24 March 2010, *The Norfolk Islander* on 20 March 2010 and the Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands community bulletin in English, Malay and Chinese on 19 and 22 March 2010.
- 1.67 The committee also sought submissions from the Government of Norfolk Island, including Members of the 12th and 13th Norfolk Island Legislative Assemblies, the Shire Councils of Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Minister for Home Affairs.
- 1.68 The committee received 14 submissions and 8 exhibits to the inquiry, which are listed at appendices A and B respectively.

- 1.69 Public hearings were held on Norfolk Island on 8 April 2010 and in Canberra on 12 April 2010.
- 1.70 Witnesses who provided evidence to the committee at these public hearings are listed at Appendix C. Transcripts of evidence of these public hearings are available on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/ncet

Report structure

- 1.71 Chapter 2 outlines the proposed amendments contained in Schedule 1, part 1 of the Bill which relate to machinery of government reform for Norfolk Island.
- 1.72 Chapter 3 outlines the proposed amendments contained in Schedule 1, part 2 of the Bill which relate to electoral reform for Norfolk Island.
- 1.73 Chapter 4 outlines the proposed amendments contained in Schedule 1, part 3 of the Bill which relate to financial management reform for Norfolk Island.
- 1.74 Chapter 5 outlines the proposed amendments contained in Schedule 1, parts 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Bill which relate to administrative law reform for Norfolk Island.
- 1.75 Chapter 6 examines proposed Schedules 2 and 3 of the Bill which relate to vesting powers and functions under WA laws applied in the IOTs.
- 1.76 Chapter 7 outlines additional issues of concern raised by Norfolk Island residents during the course of the inquiry.