

Appendix E – Correspondence relating to  
the inquiry



## PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

*President of the Senate*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

12 MAY 2005

Mrs Trish Draper, MP  
Chair  
Joint Committee on Publications  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Draper

### **PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS SERIES**

We are writing to inform you of changes we have recently made to the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series (PPS) and to seek the views of the Joint Committee on Publications (JCP) on potential further changes to the methods of providing the PPS.

#### *Background*

As you are aware the PPS is the only longitudinal collection of significant government documents available to researchers and the general public and has been in existence since 1901. The cost of the PPS has been reduced since the 1980s, and further savings are achievable with changes to the method of provision and distribution of the series.

In both 1977 and 1986, the JCP reviewed proposals to produce the series in alternative formats but saw merit in continuing the series in hard copy form because suitable alternatives such as microfilm and CD-ROM were not well developed or widespread.

In its 1997 report, the JCP recommended that 'the Parliamentary Papers Series should continue in its present form until there is a viable replacement either in electronic or printed form (or both)'. That recommendation was endorsed by the then Presiding Officers.

The closure of the Commonwealth Government Bookshops in 2003 led to the development of the [publications.gov.au](http://publications.gov.au) website to distribute electronic versions of government publications. The current widespread availability and use of the Internet leads us to conclude that it is timely once again to consider alternative, electronic delivery mechanisms for the PPS.

*Changes to distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series*

In light of the increasing electronic availability of the documents in the PPS, we have decided to restrict the eligibility guidelines for recipients of the PPS to include only the libraries of States, State parliaments, tertiary education institutions, the main national or parliamentary library of a country which has an exchange arrangement with the National Library of Australia, and appropriate addressees as determined by the Presiding Officers. Current recipients which will no longer be entitled to receive documents through the PPS include municipal libraries, Commonwealth departmental libraries, foreign embassies and political parties.

We have also decided to cease provision of the series in collated 'blister' packs. Recipients will now be entitled to one free 'pamphlet' copy of each document in the series, together with an annual index. This will impact thirty four recipients who currently receive a blister pack.

*Views of the Committee*

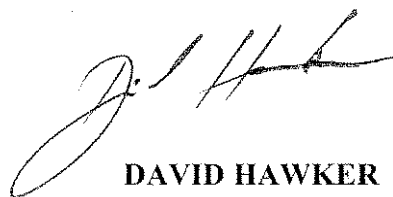
Before any more extensive changes are made to the Parliamentary Papers Series, we would welcome the views of the JCP on the following:

1. Would the distribution of the PPS in a digital format be an acceptable alternative to continuing the hard copy series or a useful adjunct to the hard copy series?
2. Is there a market for a subscription service for the series (in either digital or hard copy form)?
3. Could some form of partial or full cost recovery be applied to the series?

Yours sincerely



**PAUL CALVERT**



**DAVID HAWKER**



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4791 | Fax: (02) 6277 4517 | Email: [publications.committee.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:publications.committee.reps@aph.gov.au)

10 November 2005

Senator the Hon. Paul Calvert  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Mr President

As you are aware, the Joint Committee on Publications is conducting an inquiry into the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series. The Committee has received evidence regarding the changes to the Parliamentary Papers Series, namely the cessation of blister packs and the tightening of the eligibility guidelines, which are due to take effect from 1 January 2006.

The Committee has therefore resolved to ask both Presiding Officers to delay the implementation of any changes to the Parliamentary Papers Series until the Committee presents its report, which is now expected to be early in 2006.

Yours sincerely

Mts Trish Draper, MP  
Chair



# PARLIAMENT *of* AUSTRALIA

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4791 | Fax: (02) 6277 4517 | Email: [publications.committee.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:publications.committee.reps@aph.gov.au)

10 November 2005

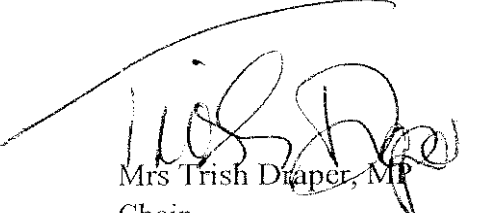
Hon. David Hawker, MP  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker *Dear David,*

As you are aware, the Joint Committee on Publications is conducting an inquiry into the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series. The Committee has received evidence regarding the changes to the Parliamentary Papers Series, namely the cessation of blister packs and the tightening of the eligibility guidelines, which are due to take effect from 1 January 2006.

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Yours sincerely

  
Mrs Trish Diaper, MP  
Chair



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

*President of the Senate*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

- 7 DEC 2005

Mrs Trish Draper, MP  
Chair  
Joint Committee on Publications  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Draper *Trish*

Thank you for your letters of 10 November 2005 informing us of the Committee's resolution asking the Presiding Officers to delay implementation of changes to the Parliamentary Papers Series (PPS) until the Committee presents its report, which is now expected to be early in 2006.

We have given your request careful consideration. PPS recipients were informed in July this year of our decision to change the guidelines with effect from January 2006, and we have decided that the changes to the guidelines should continue to apply from that date. However, in response to the committee's request and noting the committee's planned reporting date of early 2006, we have decided to retain the capacity to respond flexibly to the results of the committee's inquiry. Accordingly, stock requirements for presentation of government documents to the Parliament will not be reduced at this stage pending the outcomes of the committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Paul Calvert in black ink.

PAUL CALVERT

Handwritten signature of David Hawker in black ink.

DAVID HAWKER