

## Introduction

### Purpose of the report

1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of a series of proposed treaty actions tabled on 12 November 2002<sup>1</sup> specifically:

- *Amendments, done at Bonn, Germany on 24 September 2002, to Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, done at Bonn on 23 June 1979;*

and on 3 December 2002<sup>2</sup>:

- *Amendment, done at Cambridge, United Kingdom on 14 October 2002, to the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, done at Washington on 2 December 1946; and*
- *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, done at Vienna on 5 September 1997.*

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1 See *Senate Journal*, 12 November 2002, p. 1015 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 12 November 2002, p. 541.

2 See *Senate Journal*, 3 December 2002, p. 1175 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 3 December 2002, p. 598.

- 1.2 One further proposed treaty action was tabled on 3 December 2002:
- *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome 3 November 2001).*
- 1.3 The Committee deferred tabling its review of this treaty action pending further consideration.

## Briefing documents

- 1.4 The advice in this report refers to National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for these proposed treaty actions. Copies of NIAs are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.
- 1.5 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

## Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.6 The Committee's review of the treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.<sup>3</sup> In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.7 The Committee also took evidence at a public hearing held on 9 December 2002. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearing is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearing can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed

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3 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 13 November 2002 and 18 December 2002. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.

through the Committee's internet site at  
[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm).