

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' review of the following treaty actions tabled on 19 March 2014 and 13 May 2014:
- ⇒ *Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Defence and Security Cooperation (Perth, 18 January 2013); and*
 - ⇒ *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement FATCA (Canberra, 28 April 2014).*
- 1.2 In addition, the Report contains the Committee's views on nine Minor Treaty Actions:
- ⇒ *Amendments, adopted 10 May 2013, to Annex III of the Rotterdam convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Geneva, 10 May 2013);*
 - ⇒ *Amendment, adopted by the 8th Conference of the Pacific Community, to the Agreement establishing the South Pacific Commission (Suva, 19 November 2013);*
 - ⇒ *Amendments, adopted by the 11th Conference of the Parties, to Annex IX of the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal (Geneva, 6 May 2013);*
 - ⇒ *Amendments, adopted at London on 17 May 2013, to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (London, 17 May 2013);*

- ⇒ Amendments, adopted at London on 21 June 2013, to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended (London, 21 June 2013);
 - ⇒ Amendments, adopted at London on 21 June 2013, to Annex B to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended (London, 21 June 2013);
 - ⇒ Amendments, adopted at London on 17 May 2013, to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (London 17 May 2013);
 - ⇒ Amendments, adopted at London on 17 May 2013, to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (London 17 May 2013); and
 - ⇒ Amendments, adopted at London on 21 June 2013, to the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972 (London, 21 June 2013).
- 1.3 The Committee's resolution of appointment empowers it to inquire into any treaty to which Australia has become signatory, on the treaty being tabled in Parliament.
- 1.4 The treaties, and matters arising from them, are evaluated to ensure that ratification is in the national interest, and that unintended or negative effects on Australians will not arise.
- 1.5 Prior to tabling, major treaty actions are subject to a National Interest Analysis (NIA), prepared by Government. This document considers arguments for and against the treaty, outlines the treaty obligations and any regulatory or financial implications, and reports the results of consultations undertaken with State and Territory Governments, Federal and State and Territory agencies, and with industry or non-government organisations.
- 1.6 A Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) may accompany the NIA. The RIS provides an account of the regulatory impact of the treaty action where adoption of the treaty will involve a change in the regulatory environment for Australian business.
- 1.7 The Committee takes account of these documents in its examination of the treaty text, in addition to other evidence taken during the inquiry program.
- 1.8 Copies of each treaty and its associated documentation may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
- http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/Treaty_tabled_on_19_March_2014;

- http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/13_May_2014.

Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.9 The treaty actions reviewed in this report were advertised on the Committee's website from the date of tabling. Submissions for the treaties were requested by 11 April 2014 and 30 May 2014.
- 1.10 Invitations were made to all State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and to the Presiding Officers of each Parliament to lodge submissions. The Committee also invited submissions from individuals and organisations with an interest in the particular treaty under review.
- 1.11 The Committee held public hearings into these treaties in Canberra on Monday 16 June 2014. Additionally, a public hearing was held for one of the minor treaty actions on Monday 12 May 2014.
- 1.12 The transcripts of evidence from the public hearings may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website under the treaties' tabling dates, being:
 - 19 March 2014; and
 - 13 May 2014.
- 1.13 A list of submissions received and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.14 A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearings is at Appendix B.

