

1. Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' review of:
 - *Paris Agreement* (Paris, 12 December 2015); and
 - *Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (Doha, 8 December 2012).
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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. The Treaties in this report did not require a RIS.

- 1.6 The Committee takes account of these documents in its examination of the Treaty text, in addition to other evidence taken during the inquiry program.
- 1.7 Copies of the treaties considered in this report and 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/ParisAgreement/Treaty_being_considered; and
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/KyotoProtocol/Treaty_being_considered.

Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.8 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 7 October 2016 for the *Paris Agreement* and 23 September 2016 for the *Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol*.
- 1.9 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 organisation with an interest in the treaties under review.
- 1.10 The Committee held public hearings into the treaties in Sydney on 27 September 2016, Canberra on 28 September 2016 and 17 October 2016, and Melbourne on 6 October 2016.
- 1.11 The transcripts of evidence from the public hearings may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website under the individual Treaty's inquiry page.
- 1.12 A list of submission received and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.13 A list of exhibits received is at Appendix B.
- 1.14 A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearings is at Appendix C.