

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

14 June 2018

1. Greenpeace Australia Pacific submission to the Review of the *Foreign Influence Transparency Bill 2017* in regards to The Attorney-General's, the Hon Christian Porter MP, proposed amendments in Submission 84 and 84.1.

1.1 Greenpeace Australia Pacific (GPAP) welcomes the opportunity to make a further submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security inquiry into the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme (FITS) Bill 2017.

1.2 GPAP welcomes the Attorney-General's recent amendments to the FITS bill and acknowledges the concessions made to the FITS bill to address our concerns.

1.3 This submission is intended to address the recent amendments and draw attention to serious concerns GPAP still has toward the proposed legislation.

2. About Greenpeace Australia Pacific (GPAP)

2.1 GPAP is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (the ACNC).

2.2 GPAP consists of over 500,000 people in Australia who care about protecting our precious forests, our vast oceans and our climate.

2.3 We are part of a global network (Greenpeace International) consisting of offices in 55 countries. By our very nature we focus most of our energy on global environmental problems, such as drilling in the Arctic, deforestation in Indonesia and Brazil, bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, and action on climate change.

2.3 Greenpeace is proudly independent and we accept no donations from governments or corporations. We have no permanent allies or enemies and we work constructively with governments and corporations that seek to be part of resolving the world's biggest environmental problems.

3. Concerns with the amendments

3.1 GPAP is firmly of the view that these amendments still mean our work could be captured because the definition of 'foreign principal' and 'national security' have not been sufficiently narrowed.

3.2 GPAP believes the amendments do not address our serious concerns about the definition of 'foreign political organisation' and that subsequently our work, along with Greenpeace International's work, and our foreign offices may still be captured under the definition of a 'foreign political organisation'. This will impact negatively on our collaboration and how we communicate with each other.

3.3 GPAP staff are in daily contact with dozens of people around the world, both within our organisation and outside including governments such as those in the Pacific Islands. The amendments have not addressed these concerns and we are concerned our communications will be negatively impacted by this bill.

3.4 The amendments to the definition of 'foreign political organisation' in the FITS bill seem to be contradictory to those in the Espionage and Foreign Interference (EFI) Bill. In such that the EFI bill defines 'foreign principle' as including international organisations such as the United Nations, whilst the amendments to the FITS bill redefines the term to exclude the United Nations.

3.5 We continue to maintain that this Bill is part of a suite of three bills, including the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill and the EFI Bill which all pose a significant threat to participatory democracy and civil society and all three Bills should be considered together, withdrawn and redrafted.

3.6 The proposed amendments do nothing to address our concerns that our advocacy work would be a considered a 'registerable activity'.

3.7 There maintains a strong awareness that individuals and groups who advocate on international issues such as climate change and peace will be dis-incentivised to interact with people around the world in order to avoid falling foul of the law and thus will diminish Australia's engagement with the international community.

4. Recommendations

4.1 GPAP recommends that 'foreign political organisation' be redefined to exclude international charities and advocacy groups.

4.2 GPAP recommends a clear exemption from registration for international charities, advocacy groups and 'political campaigners' similar to those exemptions made for business and industry.

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