



Australian Government

AUSTRAC

Chief Executive Officer

[REDACTED]
Inquiry Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: pjicis@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Review of the Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the above-mentioned review, received 27 July 2023. As you are aware, AUSTRAC is Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) regulator and financial intelligence unit (FIU).

AUSTRAC's dual function

As a regulator, AUSTRAC oversees the compliance of more than 17,000 Australian businesses with the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* (the AML/CTF Act) and associated Rules. AUSTRAC's regulated population includes a broad range of businesses. These businesses must comply with obligations in the AML/CTF Act, and implement effective AML/CTF systems and controls to identify and mitigate money laundering and terrorism financing (ML/TF) risk.

As Australia's FIU, AUSTRAC is the custodian of the financial data received from reporting entities and provides financial transaction data and actionable financial intelligence to a broad range of partner agencies (including law enforcement, national security and regulatory agencies), as well as international counterparts. Partner agencies use this information to assist them to detect, prevent and disrupt ML/TF and other serious crime.

Oversight of AUSTRAC's intelligence function

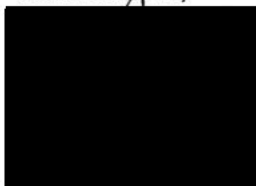
Financial intelligence is a critical piece of the national security architecture, preserving the integrity of Australia's financial system. It has become increasingly vital in securing law enforcement outcomes in the face of new and emerging threats.



AUSTRAC supports the strengthening of the parliamentary committee system and enhancement of parliamentary and statutory oversight of National Intelligence Community agencies, as intended by this legislation.

To this end, the Attorney-General's Department submission to the review of the Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 sets out oversight of AUSTRAC's intelligence function by the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS). AUSTRAC supports the Department's position and considers it pertinent to provide the public with assurance that AUSTRAC's intelligence functions operate lawfully and with propriety.

Yours sincerely



Peter Soros

Acting Chief Executive Officer

25/8/23