



Defence Cooperation Treaty with UK endorsed

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties today released *Report 141*, endorsing the Australian Government's Defence Cooperation Treaty with the United Kingdom.

"In the year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I and the 70th anniversary of D-Day, both of which are significant events in our military relationship with the United Kingdom, the committee is proud to support a treaty that will cement our robust relationship with the United Kingdom's military into the future," committee Chair, Mr Wyatt Roy MP, said.

Both Australia and the United Kingdom recognise that the benefits of a strong defence relationship over time are best enabled by a formal treaty.

"The current economic environment and emerging global security issues requires the close cooperation of like-minded states," Mr Roy said.

"The treaty was negotiated with this common understanding between the Parties."

The proposed treaty will complement the less than treaty level Agreements and annual Ministerial consultations that constitute our defence relationship at present.

Cooperation with the United Kingdom occurs across a wide range of defence related issues, including science and technology, capability development, logistics, personnel exchanges and security of information.

The proposed treaty creates a greater solidity and touchstone for engagement between Australia and the United Kingdom by providing a legally binding framework through which to develop the relationship.

"The committee has no hesitation in recommending that binding treaty action be taken in relation to this proposed treaty," Mr Roy said.

Report 141 also contains the committee's views on the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America to Improve International Tax Compliance and Implement FATCA* and nine minor treaty actions.

The report is available on the committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct> or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.Canberra.

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