PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Review of the National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017
Review of the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017

Issue date: 1 February 2018

Public consultation period extended on foreign interference bills

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has extended its public consultation period for its review of two important bills targeting espionage and foreign interference:

- the **National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017**, which amends existing criminal laws for secrecy and espionage offences, and introduces new foreign interference and sabotage offences, and
- the **Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017**, which establishes a scheme that requires registration by persons who undertake certain activities within Australia on behalf of foreign interests.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Andrew Hastie MP, said that "The Committee's public hearings held this past week have demonstrated the necessity of the two Bills, however, a short extension has been granted to give members of the public the continuing opportunity to comment on the proposals.

"The Committee has elected to extend the period for public consultation on the two Bills and will reschedule its reporting date to facilitate this. The Committee seeks additional submissions by Thursday 15 February 2018".

To facilitate extended consultation, the Committee will now report on both bills by 23 March 2018.

Media enquiries:
Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP (Canning, WA) on 08 9534 8044 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 4223 (Parliament House)

For background information:
Committee Secretariat - Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security –
(02) 6277 2360
pjcis@aph.gov.au

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