



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2018

New inquiry into the trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement has commenced a new inquiry into the trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

Populations of African elephants and rhinos are being decimated due to poaching, with one elephant killed every 15 minutes for its ivory, and over 1300 rhinos killed in 2015 alone.¹

Australia has prohibited the importation of elephant and rhino specimens for personal or commercial uses, unless a pre-Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) certificate can be produced proving that a specimen predates the Convention. Currently, there are no legal requirements on sellers, auctioneers or electronic marketplaces to provide evidence at the point of sale which demonstrates the legal importation, provenance, or age of an elephant or rhino specimen.

The committee will consider legal and administrative arrangements for ensuring Australia's compliance with its CITES obligations to restrict the trade in elephants and rhinos, including:

- the adequacy of existing arrangements and resources for screening for elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn products;
- the involvement of serious and organised crime groups in the import, export and/or sale of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn products;
- the effectiveness of existing domestic legislation and compliance frameworks to restrict trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn products, with particular regard to the role of the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Border Force;
- the effectiveness of current monitoring and regulation, including the extent and use of legally mandated provenance documentation;
- the authenticity of provenance documentation and the effectiveness of measures to detect forged or fraudulent documentation;
- engagement by Australian law enforcement agencies with regional and international counterparts to address the illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn; and
- the nature and effectiveness of measures, models and legislation adopted in other jurisdictions to address the trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

The committee invites submissions addressing the terms of reference from interested individuals and organisations by **7 June 2018**.

Information about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, is available at:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Law_Enforcement/Elephantivoryrhinohorn.

¹ International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), *Under the Hammer*, September 2016, p. 2.

For media comment contact the office of Mr Craig Kelly MP, Committee Chair, on (02) 9521 6262.

For information about the inquiry process or making a submission, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3419.