



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Public Hearing

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Issue date: Monday 14 August 2017

## Macau relations and ozone protection on the agenda

The [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#) is holding a Public hearing in Canberra today regarding Australia's consulate agreement with Macau and new amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The amended [Consular Agreement with Macau](#) brings consular relations with the Macau Special Administrative Region under the auspices of the consular Agreement between China and Australia.

Committee Chair, [Mr Stuart Robert MP](#), expressed the importance of improving clarity in managing consular cases between Australia and Macau.

"Australia has a strong commercial presence in Macau. Enabling better access and services to Australians living and working in Macau will assist the continuation of this relationship," Mr Robert said.

The Committee will also be examining the [Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol](#) on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Amendment provides for the global phase-down of use of hydrofluorocarbons, commonly found in air conditioning and refrigerant technology. The phase-down is due to occur between 2019 and 2036.

Mr Robert highlighted Australia's commitment to the Protocol.

"Australia has accepted all six previous amendments to the Protocol, and has been proactive in their implementation," Mr Robert said.

"After a review by the Department of the Environment and Energy, the Parliament has already implemented domestic legislation to commence the phase-down from 2018. This is a move that has been supported by relevant industries."

**Public Hearing details: 11:00 – 12:30, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**

*Consular Functions in Macau - China*

11.00 am Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

*Montreal Protocol Ozone Layer - Amendment*

11.45 am Department of the Environment and Energy

12.30 pm Close



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The hearing will be broadcast live in audio format at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live).

**Media enquiries:**

Hon Stuart Robert MP, Federal Member for Fadden  
Chair Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Contact: Sam O'Connor - 0416 925 981

**For background:**

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
(02) 6277 4002, [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au)