



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Inquiry into three treaty actions

Issue date: Monday 27 February 2017

Under the spotlight: Hearings on social security, nuclear research cooperation and vehicle standards

11.00AM MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2017

The Treaties Committee will hold a public hearing in Canberra on Monday to examine three separate treaties: a bilateral social security agreement with New Zealand, a multilateral agreement for regional cooperation for nuclear research, and a multilateral agreement for the harmonisation of standards for vehicles.

Committee Chair [the Hon Stuart Robert MP](#) said public hearings allow the text of each treaty to be carefully examined.

“Although treaty making remains the prerogative of the Executive, the role of the Committee is to examine each treaty brought before it, to determine if it is in the national interest. This public hearing is an opportunity for the Committee to examine the terms of each treaty and ensure that they meet the needs and expectations of Australians and is in our national interest,” Mr Robert said.

Social Security Agreement – New Zealand

Under this Agreement people who have lived in both countries will have access to specified income support payments in their current country of residence. The new Agreement replaces a similar existing agreement, and provides that both countries will contribute to these social security payments on a proportional basis.

Nuclear Research Cooperation Agreement

The proposed Agreement will facilitate regional cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the East Asia-Pacific region, through joint research, development and training projects. The proposed Agreement is an important mechanism to fulfil Australia’s obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Harmonisation of Wheeled Vehicles – Revision

The proposed Agreement updates earlier agreements that harmonise technical safety and environmental regulations for vehicles, and consequently reduce barriers to the international export and import of vehicles between countries.

Public Hearing details:

Time: 11.10 am



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Date: Monday, 27 February 2017

Location: Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Live Webcast (Audio only)

11.10 am	Social Security Agreement – New Zealand Department of Social Services
11.50 am	Nuclear Research Cooperation Agreement Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
12.30 pm	Harmonisation of Wheeled Vehicles – Revision Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
1.00 pm	<i>Close</i>

Media enquiries:

Hon Stuart Robert MP, Federal Member for Fadden

Chair Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

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For background:

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

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