

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO

REPORT 52 OF THE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Government Response to Report 52 of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)

Recommendation 1:

That, in recognition of the concerns held by members of the Australian public and non-government organisations, there be an opportunity for greater public involvement, specifically including local government, in the consultation process leading up to the first review of SAFTA.

The Government will ensure that local government bodies and other relevant stakeholders, particularly State and Territory governments, are consulted on the incorporation of reservations covering regional (State, Territory and local) government measures to the principal obligations in the chapters on Trade in Services and Investment. Incorporation of these reservations will be the main item requiring additions or modifications to the Treaty that will be considered at the first review of SAFTA.

MARPOL 73/78: Annex IV - Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships (revised)

Recommendation 4:

The Committee recommends that the role of the Committee be recognised by ensuring that, unless notice or reasons are provided, the Committee conclude its review of proposed treaty actions prior to the introduction of any enabling legislation.

The Government acknowledges the Committee's concern and its role in the treaty process and will make every effort to ensure that the Committee has due time to consider all treaty actions before the relevant implementing legislation is introduced. The Government notes, however, that in the national interest, this may not always be possible. It remains open for Parliament to delay considering such legislation until the Committee has reported.

The Government notes that the Committee intends to write to all Ministers drawing their attention to its concerns. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will follow these letters with advice to portfolio Legislation Liaison Officers about treaty enabling legislation.
