

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO

REPORT 65 OF THE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

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Recommendation 3

In circumstances where the national interest exemption is invoked the Committee recommends that an urgent briefing by the Minister for Foreign Affairs be provided in addition to the notification it currently receives.

After due consideration it has been decided that the Government does not accept Recommendation 3.

The Government's current policy is that where Australia effects a binding treaty action in advance of that action being tabled in Parliament then that treaty action will be tabled as soon as possible with an explanation.

Accordingly, the Government considers that the Committee already receives an appropriate explanation when the national interest exemption is invoked.

Nonetheless, whenever the Government considers invoking the national interest exemption the Government may examine whether - in given circumstances - any special additional briefing for the Committee is necessary.
