

Introduction

Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of five treaty actions tabled in Parliament on 25 November 2009, 4 and 24 February 2010. These treaty actions are the:
- *Amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Rome, 5 December 2008);*
 - *Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (Germany, 26 January 2009);*
 - *Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement of Fisheries Laws between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic in the Maritime Areas Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Heard Island and the McDonald Islands (Paris, 8 January 2007);*
 - *Agreement Concerning the Provision of Health Care between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (Canberra, 11 March 2009); and*
 - *Amendment to the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning the Provision of Medical Treatment of 5 April 1991.*¹
- 1.2 One of the powers of the Committee set out in its resolution of appointment is to inquire into and report on matters arising from treaties

¹ Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, House of Representatives, *Votes and Proceedings* No. 136, p. 1505, No. 140, p. 1585, No. 147, p. 1649; Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Senate, *Journals of the Senate*, No. 108, p. 3150, No. 110, p. 3178, No. 111, p. 3192.

and related National Interest Analyses (NIAs) presented. This report deals with inquiries conducted under this power, and consequently the report refers frequently to the treaties and their associated NIAs. Copies of each treaty and its associated NIA may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct

- 1.3 Copies of each treaty action and the NIAs may also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at:

www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/

Conduct of the Committee's Review

- 1.4 The reviews contained in this report were advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.² Invitations to lodge submissions were also sent to all State Premiers, Chief Ministers, Presiding Officers of parliaments and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions. Submissions received and their authors are listed at Appendix A. Exhibits received are listed at Appendix B.

- 1.5 The Committee also received evidence at public hearings on 1 February and 15 March 2010 in Canberra. A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearings is at Appendix C. Transcripts of evidence from the public hearings may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:

- www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/25november2009/hearings.htm;
- www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/2february2010/hearings.htm; and
- www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/24february2010/hearings.htm.

2 The Committee's reviews of the proposed treaty actions were advertised in *The Australian* on 2 December 2009, 17 February 2010 and 3 March 2010. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information both in the advertisement and via the Committee's website, and invited to submit their views to the Committee.