

## CHAPTER 1

### Introduction

1.1 On 21 May 1985 the following matter was referred to the Committee by the Senate on the recommendation of Senate Estimates Committee D for investigation and report:

The circumstances surrounding advice given, decisions taken and procedures involved with the various court actions relating to the film 'The Return of Captain Invincible'.<sup>1</sup>

During its deliberations on additional estimates for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Environment for 1984-85, Estimates Committee D had expressed concern about the substantial cost to the Commonwealth of these court actions.

1.2 After reading the evidence given to Estimates Committee D by officers of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment (the Department)<sup>2</sup>, the further information sought by the Estimates Committee and provided by the Department, and the report of the Estimates Committee tabled on 21 May 1985<sup>3</sup>, the Committee sought a submission on the reference from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Barry Cohen MP (the Minister).

1.3 The Committee received a submission from the Minister dated 2 July 1985. Following consideration of issues raised by the Minister, the Committee sought a further submission from him. The Committee received a further submission from the Minister dated 13 November 1985.

1.4 The Committee has considered these documents, and the judgments delivered in the court actions mentioned in the terms of reference.

1.5 The Committee thanks the Minister and officers of the Department for their assistance in this inquiry.

ENDNOTES

1. Australia, Senate, Journals No. 30, 21 May 1985, p. 284.
2. Australia, Senate, Debate - Estimates Committees A,B,C,D,E and F, 15 April to 23 May 1985, pp. 204-5.
3. Australia, Senate, Journals No. 30, op. cit.