

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' review of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy* (Abu Dhabi, 31 July 2012).
- 1.2 In addition, the Report contains the Committee's views on the *Minor Treaty Action: 2013 Amendment to Annex 1 of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport of 19 October 2005 (Paris, 26 September 2013)*.
- 1.3 The Committee's resolution of appointment empowers it to inquire into any treaty to which Australia has become signatory, on the treaty being tabled in Parliament.
- 1.4 The treaties, and matters arising from them, are evaluated to ensure that ratification is in the national interest, and that unintended or negative effects on Australians will not arise.
- 1.5 Prior to tabling, major treaty actions are subject to a National Interest Analysis (NIA), prepared by Government. This document considers arguments for and against the treaty, outlines the treaty obligations and any regulatory or financial implications, and reports the results of consultations undertaken with State and Territory Governments, Federal and State and Territory agencies, and with industry or non-government organisations.
- 1.6 A Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) may accompany the NIA. The RIS provides an account of the regulatory impact of the treaty action where adoption of the treaty will involve a change in the regulatory environment for Australian business. The treaties considered in this report do not require Regulation Impact Statements.

- 1.7 The Committee takes account of these documents in its examination of the treaty text, in addition to other evidence taken during the inquiry program.
- 1.8 Copies of the proposed Agreement and its associated documentation may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
http://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/house_of_representatives_committees?url=jsct/15january2014/index.htm.

Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.9 This proposed *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy* was initially tabled on 12 March 2013 during the 43rd Parliament.
- 1.10 The inquiry into the proposed Agreement was advertised on the Committee's website from the date of tabling. Submissions for the treaty were requested by Friday 3 May 2013, with extensions available on request.
- 1.11 Invitations were made to all State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and to the Presiding Officers of each Parliament to lodge submissions. The Committee also invited submissions from individuals and organisations with an interest in the particular treaty under review.
- 1.12 The Committee held two public hearings in Canberra into the proposed Agreement:
- Monday 13 May 2013; and
 - Monday 17 June 2013.
- 1.13 The transcripts of evidence from the public hearings may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website under the treaty tabling date 12 March 2013.
- 1.14 The inquiry into the proposed Agreement lapsed when the 43rd Parliament was prorogued.
- 1.15 The proposed Agreement was again referred to the Committee on 15 January 2014.
- 1.16 A list of submissions received and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.17 A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearings is at Appendix B.