



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL

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LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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14 September 2006

Inquiry into the provisions of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005

INTERIM REPORT

On 6 September 2005, the Senate referred the provisions of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005 (the Bill) to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 12 October 2005. The committee held a public hearing in Canberra on 4 October 2005.

On 11 October 2005, the committee agreed to extend the reporting date to the first sitting day in 2006. On 8 December 2005, the committee agreed to seek leave to further extend the reporting date to 30 March 2006. On 7 February 2006, the reporting date was further extended to 14 September 2006.

The extensions of the reporting date were intended to allow the Bill to be considered in conjunction with an exposure draft of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Consequential, Transitional and Other Measures Bill 2006 (the Transitionals Bill). The committee understands that the Transitionals Bill will be introduced into Parliament today and that the commencement date for the proposed new arrangements will be 1 July 2007. The Senate referred the provisions of the Transitionals Bill to the committee today for inquiry and report by 9 October 2006.

Due to the need to thoroughly consider the two related bills, the committee also intends to table its final report in relation to the Bill by 9 October 2006.

**Senator Marise Payne
Chair**