Dear Mr President

## Treaty tabled on 23 March 2011

I am writing to advise of the most recent tabling of a treaty, and to invite comments as part of the review process undertaken by the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Before action is taken to bind Australia to the terms of treaties, the Treaties Committee considers and reports on whether the proposals are in Australia's national interest. The Committee is currently inquiring into the following proposed treaty tabled in both Houses of the Parliament this week:

Treaty tabled on 23 March 2011

- Resolution MEPC.189(60), Adopted on 26 March 2010 Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (Addition of a new chapter 9 to MARPOL Annex I) (London, 17 July 2009)

The subject matter of international treaties can be of interest to State and Territory Governments and Parliaments and we are keen to provide an opportunity for comment on any issues arising from proposed treaties. Treaty texts and copies of the National Interest Analysis (which accompany each treaty tabled) are available from the Committee's website at http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/23march2011/tor.htm.

As the Treaties Committee has periods of 15 and 20 sitting days in which to complete its reviews, it would be helpful if you could forward any comments you might wish to make to the Committee Secretariat by Friday, 29 April 2011. If substantial issues of concern are raised about the proposed treaty and the Committee's usual period of review is extended, it may be possible to arrange for a submission to be lodged after this date. Your comments may be accepted as a submission to the review and authorised for publication.

