

**RESPONSE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE VIEWS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE IN COMMUNICATION NO. 3624/2019 (BILLY ET AL. v
AUSTRALIA)**

1. The Australian Government presents its compliments to the members of the Human Rights Committee (the Committee).
2. The Australian Government acknowledges its obligations under the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (the Covenant). The Australian Government takes these obligations very seriously and has given careful consideration to the Views of the Committee in relation to Communication No. 3624/2019 (*Billy et al v Australia*),¹ adopted on 21 July 2022 and transmitted to the Australian Government on 22 September 2022.
3. The final version of the Committee's Views will be published on the website of the Australian Attorney-General's Department, along with this response.² The Australian government values the rigour and transparency of the communications process.

Australia's commitment to working collaboratively with First Nations people

4. The Australian Government is committed to pursuing laws and policies that improve outcomes for First Nations people. This includes holding a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution, through establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament and the Executive Government.
5. The Australian Government acknowledges the impact of climate change on First Nations people. First Nations people have much to lose from unchecked climate change due to their rich and meaningful connection with Country. The Australian Government also acknowledges the visible and tangible impacts from rising sea levels and natural disasters impacting on the people of the Torres Strait Islands, and acknowledges the deeply meaningful impacts on culture and ritual, and the increasing difficulty of living on Country.
6. The Australian Government acknowledges that First Nations people are disproportionately affected by climate change because of their relationship to the

¹ Human Rights Committee, *Views adopted by the Committee under article 5(4) of the Optional Protocol, concerning communication No. 3624/2019*, UN Doc CCPR/C/135/3624/2019 (Committee's Views).

² 'Human Rights Communications', *Attorney-General's Department* (web page)

<<https://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Pages/Humanrightscommunications.aspx>>.

environment and to Country. Climate impacts can threaten cultural knowledge, heritage and traditional practices, and potentially further displace First Nations people from their homes and affect their ability to access Country.

7. The Australian Government acknowledges that climate change impacts such as sea level rises experienced in island communities and increases in temperature experienced in desert communities could leave First Nations people with no choice but to migrate from some ancestral homelands to other locations. The Australian Government acknowledges the consequences for First Nations people facing this possibility, risking further dispossession and a loss of access to traditional lands, waters, and natural resources. The loss of ancestral, spiritual, totemic and language connections to lands and associated areas can have impacts on the human rights of affected peoples, as well as their physical and mental wellbeing. Extreme events are also contributing to the damage of First Nations places and cultural sites.
8. Torres Strait Islanders are dealing with the impacts of climate change right now. Communities are experiencing sea level rise at approximately three times the rate of the global average, resulting in more frequent and severe inundation flooding events and accelerated coastal erosion. Higher temperatures and storm events create other challenges for community health, infrastructure and services. Hotter and more frequent marine heatwaves are threatening locally and nationally significant fisheries, as well as culturally important species and ecosystems such as dugongs, turtles, coral reefs and seagrasses.
9. The Australian Government recognises the crucial role of First Nations people in tackling climate change and the benefits of incorporating Traditional Knowledge and practices into climate actions. First Nations people have an intimate understanding of Country and its landscapes, habitats and flora and fauna. By leveraging and integrating this knowledge into the Australian Government's policies and decision-making processes, Australia is improving the effectiveness of its climate response and delivering better social and environmental outcomes.
10. Consistent with the Committee's recommendations, the Australian Government is engaging in meaningful consultation with the Torres Strait Island community. This has included a meeting with the authors after the Committee delivered its Views. The Attorney-General met with two of the authors on 7 November 2022 to discuss the Australian Government's response to the Communication, in addition to current seawall

and climate adaptation policy measures in the Torres Strait. On the same day, both the Minister for Climate Change and Energy and the Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy met separately with these authors to continue dialogue on addressing climate change and adaptation policy measures in the Torres Strait.

11. On 8 March 2023, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy and the Assistant Minister for Climate Change received correspondence from Gur a Baradharaw Kod, on behalf of the authors, thanking them for these meetings and setting out the response that they would like to see from Australia. The Australian Government is currently considering these proposals and looks forward to engaging further on them.
12. The Australian Government has also consulted with the broader Torres Strait Island community. On 18 January 2023, the Australian Government held a Regional Round Table for the Torres Strait Climate Centre of Excellence on Waiben (Thursday Island) with regional leaders and Traditional Owners. The Regional Round Table focused on the early stages of the design and implementation of the Torres Strait Climate Centre of Excellence.
13. In June 2022, the Australian Government held a Ministerial Torres Strait Round Table on Climate Change, during which Ministers heard from Traditional Owners that climate change was one of the greatest threats to their people, culture, economy, livelihoods, food, water, and energy security. This was also the resounding message from the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change in March 2021, with the First Nation Peoples Statement on Climate Change calling for a commitment from the Australian Government to financially support an annual First Nations-led dialogue to share lived experience of climate change and inform climate policy at all levels. Following these consultations, the Australian Government has made a series of funding and other commitments, some of which are outlined below.
14. Further, the Australian Government – through the National Environmental Science Program – has facilitated the bringing together of Traditional Owner participants from across Australia, who created the National First Peoples Platform on Climate Change (NFPPCC). In October 2022, the NFPPCC committee gathered in the Torres Strait, and will continue to meet regularly over the next 5 years, to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people access and opportunity to collaborate with scientists and amplify First Nations voices on climate change issues and climate adaptation. This will ensure a

mechanism by which the implementation of Australia's climate change measures can be monitored and reviewed.

15. Further information on the funding commitments that the Australian Government has made to support collaboration with First Nations people, as well as specific bodies of work which are now underway, is provided below.

Australia's commitment to addressing climate change and its effects

16. The Australian Government notes that the Committee did not make any findings in respect of mitigation measures. The Australian Government welcomes this, noting that this is consistent with our submissions.³ Without prejudice to this, the Australian Government takes this opportunity to elaborate on the steps it is taking to address climate change and its effects.

17. The Australian Government is implementing a substantial and rigorous suite of new policies across the economy to drive the transition to net zero emissions and is committed to supporting enhanced climate action in our region through increased climate finance and by working closely with our partners in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. On 16 June 2022, the Australian Government lodged a more ambitious 2030 emissions reduction target and reaffirmed the 2050 net-zero target in an updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Climate Change Act 2022 (Cth)

18. On 8 September 2022, the Australian Parliament passed the *Climate Change Act 2022* which sets out Australia's emissions reduction targets. Australia's emission reduction targets are to achieve 43 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The Australian Government has submitted an updated version of its Nationally Determined Contributions, reflecting this target, to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* Registry.
19. Under the *Climate Change Act 2022*, Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy is required to prepare an annual climate change statement that relates to: meeting Australia's legislated targets, international developments, the effectiveness of Australia's policies in reducing emissions in various sectors, the impact of Australia's policies to

³ In light of the Committee's approach, this response has not addressed issues of causation and attribution, as set out in Australia's submissions on admissibility and merits dated 29 May 2020, [26], [34]-[39] and Australia's response to the authors' additional submissions dated 5 August 2021, [13]-[20].

achieve our targets on regional and rural Australia and the risks to Australia from climate change impacts.

20. The first annual climate change statement was delivered in the Australian parliament in December 2022. In delivering the statement, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy committed to developing a plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and a national adaptation plan.

Funding commitments

21. In October 2022, the Australian Government announced the following:

- a. A commitment of \$83.8 million over four years from 2022 to establish a First Nations Community Microgrids program. This program will support the development and deployment of microgrids in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve energy affordability and reliability and reduce emissions. This program will enable Australia to maximise its advantage in renewable energy, and will be developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and First Nations clean energy experts.
- b. A commitment of \$5.5 million to work with First Nations Australians and co-design a First Nations Clean Energy Strategy (the Strategy). In August 2022, Australian Energy Ministers across all jurisdictions agreed to work with First Nations Australians to co-design the Strategy as a priority action in Australia's transition to net zero emissions. The Strategy will help ensure First Nations Australians have a greater say in priorities for the National Energy Transformation Partnership and participate in the design, development and implementation of clean energy policies and programs in the transition to net zero emissions.
- c. A commitment of \$275.4 million over 6 years from 2022 to establish the Driving the Nation Fund to invest in cheaper, cleaner transport, bringing Australia's total investment for electric and hydrogen vehicle infrastructure to over \$500 million. This recognises that transport is one of Australia's largest sources of emissions which, in turn, can contribute to climate change. Improving choice, affordability and access to infrastructure for electric vehicles is critical for reaching net zero emissions by 2050. The Driving the Nation Fund doubles the Commonwealth's investment in electric vehicle charging, hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and fleets to support the energy transition.

- d. A commitment of \$47.1 million over four years from 2022 to Australia's Climate Change Authority to provide independent climate change advice and deliver new annual climate change statements to Parliament, supporting integrity and greater transparency in emissions reduction. This funding will allow Australia to make genuine progress in reducing the future impacts of climate change, while promoting economic opportunity in transitioning to a low-emissions economy and improving Australia's capability to manage future risks of climate change.

Nature Positive Plan

22. On 8 December 2022, the Australian Government released its response to the Independent Review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (Cth). The response sets out the Australian Government's commitment to reforming its national environmental protection and laws, alongside other ambitious commitments including: protecting 30 per cent of Australia's land and seas by 2030, net zero emissions by 2050, and a plan towards zero new extinctions.
23. The Nature Positive Plan sets out how the Australian Government will embed climate change considerations in national environment laws without duplicating existing mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Nature Positive Plan will improve the transparency of expected emissions in project assessments, and ensure emissions are managed, over the life of the project. This will complement the Australian Government's ambitious action on climate change.
24. The Nature Positive Plan confirms the Australian Government's commitment to give First Nations people a stronger voice in our system of environmental protection. As a priority, the Australian Government will develop a National Environmental Standard for First Nations engagement and participation in decision-making. This will ensure that First Nations interests and cultural heritage are identified early in environmental decision-making processes. This standard will be co-designed with the Indigenous Advisory Committee and will involve engagement with First Nations peoples.

Queensland Government measures

25. Australia has a federal constitutional system in which legislative, executive and judicial powers are shared or distributed between the various federal institutions of the Commonwealth and the six States (including Queensland) and two Territories. The Queensland Government has jurisdiction over the Torres Strait Islands.

26. The Queensland Government has also committed to a climate positive future and is taking significant action to: address climate change; increase the use of clean and renewable energy; reduce Queensland's reliance on high emissions energy sources; and incentivise Queensland's residents to take climate friendly action, including in the Torres Strait Islands.
27. On 28 September 2022, the Queensland Government released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which outlines how Queensland's energy system will transform to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy to provide power for generations. Under the plan, the Queensland Government is committing an extra \$4 billion to Queensland's energy transformation and setting two new renewable energy targets of 70 percent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 percent by 2035.
28. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan also includes the development of a Remote and First Nations clean energy strategy. The Remote and First Nations clean energy strategy will be co-designed by remote First Nations communities and the Queensland and Australian governments to help achieve the Queensland Government's commitment of zero net electricity emissions across Energy Queensland's isolated power stations. Energy Queensland is the group of electricity distribution, retail and energy services businesses that are owned by the state of Queensland.
29. The Queensland Government has continued to ensure First Nations input into policy development and program design for approaches to delivering a climate positive future and transition to a zero carbon economy. This includes ongoing engagement with the Torres Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council and Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation to support local decision making and regional aspirations in line with the Local Thriving Communities reform. Local Thriving Communities is a significant, long-term reform program that will improve how the Queensland Government works with communities to deliver better outcomes for the state's 19 remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Australia's commitment to adaptation measures in the Torres Strait Islands

30. The Australian Government welcomes that the findings of the Committee focussed on Australia's actions in respect of adaptation measures, in particular with respect to the construction of seawalls. The Australian Government would like to take this opportunity

to elaborate on the further steps it is taking with respect to adaptation measures in the Torres Strait Islands. Australia recognises that First Nations communities are among the most vulnerable in the world to the impacts of climate change and disasters. The Australian Government is working in partnership with First Nations Australians to reduce these impacts through measures such as those outlined below.

The Torres Strait Climate Centre of Excellence

31. In October 2022, the Australian Government announced a commitment of \$15.9 million over four years from 2022 to establish the Torres Strait Climate Centre of Excellence (the Centre). The Centre will drive a coordinated regional response to climate change in the Torres Strait by connecting traditional knowledge, lived experience and scientific research.
32. The Centre will work with Traditional Owners, remote communities and neighbouring Pacific nations to increase climate resilience and implement adaptation strategies that reflect the needs, culture and way of life of Torres Strait Islanders. The Centre represents a new, nation-leading model for working with Torres Strait Islanders and other First Nations people across Australia on the most pressing climate change impacts affecting First Nations lives and communities. The Centre will showcase and invite innovation and collaboration between industry, researchers, government and a local workforce based across the Torres Strait region, including outer islands.
33. The Centre will also provide funding for the Climate Warrior Program, which will train 12 Torres Strait Climate Warriors recruited from local communities who will lead the on-ground response to climate change.
34. National Environmental Science Program researchers are also engaging with Torres Strait Islanders to better understand and connect parallel climate knowledge as between western systems and First Nations Ancient Lore.

Torres Strait Infrastructure Package

35. In October 2022, the Australian Government committed \$40 million to a new Torres Strait Infrastructure Package which is to be delivered through the Priority Community Infrastructure Program (PCIP). The objectives of the PCIP program are to: build resilient communities through the provision of social and community facilities; improve community amenity, accessibility and livability through investment in community infrastructure; and drive economic growth in communities and the broader region. The

Torres Strait Island Regional Council has been invited to apply for this funding so that the Australian Government can conduct a value for money assessment on a proposal.

Disaster Ready Fund

36. In September 2022, the Australian Government established the Disaster Ready Fund, which will provide up to one billion dollars over the next five years (from 1 July 2023) to improve Australia's resilience to natural hazards, including from the impacts of climate change. The Australian Government will provide up to \$200 million per year to support investment in community and state-based projects (such as flood levees and sea walls) to reduce the impact disaster has on communities. Projects under the Disaster Ready Fund can target a broad range of natural hazards. Eligible activity types include infrastructure projects and systemic risk reduction projects (which include research, adaptation projects and capacity building).

Indigenous Protected Areas Program

37. In October 2022, the Australian Government committed \$231.5 million over 5 years from 1 July 2023 to continue and expand the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) Program. This includes a commitment to establish 10 new IPAs, for which an open competitive process will be undertaken to award funding. IPAs are areas of land and sea managed by Indigenous groups as protected areas for biodiversity conservation through voluntary agreements with the Australian Government.

38. This commitment means that the three Torres Strait dedicated IPAs (*Warul Kawa Island, Pulu Islet and Warraberalgal and Porumalgal*) and the two Torres Strait consultation IPA projects (*Masigalgal and Magani Lagaugal*) will be funded for a further five years from 2023, subject to the outcome of grant application processes.

39. The IPA program successfully cares for Country, delivers strong biodiversity conservation outcomes and supports Indigenous knowledge and culture. IPAs deliver environmental benefits by implementing agreed management plans such as: threatened species protection and research; pest, plant and animal management; fire management; and marine and coastal clean-ups. Managing IPAs also helps Indigenous communities protect the cultural values of their Country for future generations, and results in significant health, education, economic and social benefits.

First Nations cultural heritage sites

40. The Australian Government has committed \$14.7 million over 4 years from 2022 to support the protection of Australia's cultural and First Nations heritage sites by empowering local communities and First Nations people to assess and identify priorities for the protection of heritage.
41. Under the Nature Positive Plan (referred to above at paragraphs 22 - 24), the Australian Government has committed to developing new standalone cultural heritage protection laws to strengthen First Nations cultural heritage protections. The Australian Government is working in partnership with the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance to co-design reforms. Reforms to First Nations cultural heritage legislation will be developed in parallel with reforms to national environmental law.

Existing commitments

42. In addition, the Australian Governments notes the following existing programs addressing adaptation in the Torres Strait Islands:
 - a. The Torres Strait Seawalls Program Stage 2 provides funding of \$40 million over 4 years from 2019 for crucial coastal protection works on five low-lying islands exposed to sea level rise and tidal inundation. Coastal protection works have been completed on the islands of Boigu and Poruma, with planning underway for coastal protection works on the islands of Warraber, Iama and Masig.
 - b. The National Landcare Program, which has provided \$3 million over five years (2018-2023) to deliver biodiversity conservation outcomes under the Torres Strait Development Plan, specifically delivering on dugong and turtle management, seagrass and coral monitoring, conservation of shorebirds and developing and publishing the inaugural Torres Strait State of the Environment report. The Australian Government is considering further funding for habitat and species management and monitoring and development of a further State of the Environment report in a changing cultural and environmental climate.

Australia's response to the Committee's Views

43. The Australian Government welcomes, in particular, that the Committee:

- a. Interpreted Covenant rights consistently with Australia's position that other international treaties are not directly relevant to the interpretation of Covenant rights.
- b. Did not find any breach of: Article 2 (implementation at the national level); Article 6 (the right to life); or Article 24 (the right to ensure the rights of children and future generations).
- c. In considering Articles 17 (the right to private life, family and home) and 27 (the right to enjoy a minority culture), did not find any breach by Australia with respect to mitigation measures, consistent with Australia's submissions that mitigation measures were out of scope of the Covenant.⁴

44. After giving due consideration to the Views in good faith, the Australian Government wishes to clarify a number of issues raised by the Committee.

The right to life (Article 6(1))

45. The Australian Government welcomes the Committee's conclusion that Australia has not violated the authors' rights under Article 6(1). In particular, the Australian Government welcomes the acknowledgment that Australia is taking adaptive measures to reduce existing vulnerabilities and build resilience to climate change related harms in the Torres Strait Islands, such that the Committee did not find a violation of the authors' rights under Article 6(1). An update on Australia's adaptation measures is provided above.

46. Without prejudice to that finding, the Australian Government takes this opportunity to confirm its position on the content of Article 6(1).⁵ In particular, the Australian Government confirms its view that Article 6(1) is concerned with the "inherent right to life" and matters relevant to quality of life (including considerations relating to dignity and the environment) are addressed elsewhere in the Covenant and other instruments.

⁴ In light of the Committee's approach, this response has not addressed issues of causation and attribution, as set out in Australia's submissions on admissibility and merits dated 29 May 2020, [26], [34]-[39] and Australia's response to the authors' additional submissions dated 5 August 2021, [13]-[20].

⁵ As set out in Australia's submissions on admissibility and merits dated 29 May 2020, [70]-[85] and Australia's response to the authors' additional submissions dated 5 August 2021, [71].

47. Further, the Australian Government welcomes the Committee's recognition that there is a minimum threshold required to trigger the obligation to take positive measures. In this regard, the Australian Government welcomes the 'extreme risk' threshold referenced at paragraph 8.7 of the Committee's Views and encourages the Committee to use this threshold in its future considerations.⁶
48. The Australian Government respectfully reiterates its position that the obligation to take positive measures must be construed narrowly and arises only in exceptional circumstances.
49. The Australian Government agrees with the Committee that the minimum threshold was not met in the circumstances of this case.

The right to private life, family and home (Article 17) and the right to enjoy a minority culture (Article 27)

50. The Committee has found that Australia breached the authors' right to be free from arbitrary interferences with their private life, family and home and the authors' right to enjoy their culture, based on past and present impacts. The Australian Government understands the Committee's reasoning to have focused on the delay in constructing seawalls.
51. The Australian Government welcomes that, in making these findings, the Committee limited its assessment to: past and present (rather than potential future) impacts; and the adequacy of the adaptation measures, without making a legal finding on mitigation measures, consistent with Australia's submissions that mitigation measures were out of scope of the Covenant.⁷
52. The Australian Government further welcomes the Committee's acknowledgment of the 'numerous actions' Australia has taken to 'address adverse impacts caused by climate change and carbon emissions generated within its territory'.⁸ An update on these actions is provided above.

⁶ The Australian Government does not agree with the Committee's references to a 'reasonably foreseeable' risk ([8.3] of the Committee's Views) or a 'real and reasonably foreseeable risk' ([8.6] of the Committee's Views).

⁷ In light of the Committee's approach, this response has not addressed issues of causation and attribution, as set out in Australia's submissions on admissibility and merits dated 29 May 2020, [26], [34]-[39] and Australia's response to the authors' additional submissions dated 5 August 2021, [13]-[20].

⁸ Committee's Views, [8.11].

53. With respect to Article 17, the Australian Government notes the Committee's statement at paragraph 8.9 of its Views that 'when environmental damage threatens disruption to privacy, family and the home, States parties must prevent serious interference with the privacy, family and home of individuals under their jurisdiction'. Through this statement, the Committee appears to assume that any environmental damage is automatically foreseeable and therefore that a State's obligations to protect Article 17 rights are automatically engaged. The Australian Government reiterates its position that a high threshold is required to engage States' positive obligations, such as where a threat to Covenant rights will arise as a necessary and foreseeable consequence of a State's failure to take reasonable measures to avoid that risk.
54. Relatedly, the Australian Government considers that the Committee did not apply an appropriately high threshold in considering the obligations to take positive measures under Articles 17 and 27.
55. In its consideration of Article 17, the Committee noted that States must prevent interference that is 'foreseeable' and serious.⁹ The Australian Government does not consider that mere 'foreseeability' is the relevant threshold to trigger the obligation to take positive measures. As noted above, the obligation to take positive measures must be construed narrowly and arises only in exceptional circumstances. To that end, the Australian Government notes the importance of ensuring that the threshold adopted by the Committee, in considering whether an obligation to take positive measures is enlivened, reflects the gravity of the potential impact on the right if such measures are not taken. In this respect, the Australian Government welcomes the Committee's references to appropriately high thresholds, such as where environmental degradation has 'direct repercussions' on the right to one's home, and where 'adverse consequences of those impacts are serious because of their intensity or duration and the physical or mental harm they cause'.¹⁰ The Australian Government considers that such language recognises the need for appropriately high thresholds in the context of the obligation to take positive measures in respect of Article 17.
56. In its consideration of Article 27, the Committee did not apply an appropriately high threshold to enliven the obligation to take positive measures. The Australian Government notes the Committee's finding that the climate impacts represented a threat that could

⁹ Committee's Views, [8.9].

¹⁰ Committee's Views, [8.12].

have been ‘reasonably foreseen’ by Australia. As outlined above, the Australian Government does not accept that ‘reasonable foreseeability’ is the appropriate threshold to enliven the obligation to take positive measures. The Australian Government reiterates that a high threshold is required in order to enliven the obligation to take positive measures, as the Committee recognised in respect of Article 17.

Australia’s response to the Committee’s recommendations

57. The Committee has recommended that the Australian Government: provide adequate compensation to the authors for the harm suffered; engage in meaningful consultations with the authors’ communities in order to conduct needs assessments; continue its implementation of measures necessary to secure the communities’ continued safe existence on their respective islands; and monitor and review the effectiveness of the measures implemented and resolve any deficiencies as soon as practicable. The Committee has also stated that Australia is under an obligation to take steps to prevent similar violations in the future.¹¹
58. The Australian Government considers that the most appropriate remedies will be achieved through: our close collaboration with First Nations people (and, in the context of this communication, specifically through our close collaboration with Torres Strait Islander communities); the ambitious reform agenda that we are developing and implementing together; and the funding supporting these initiatives. Further information on these is provided above. The information set out above focuses on developments since the Committee delivered its Views.
59. The Australian Government notes that the Committee’s remedial recommendations are aimed at adaptation measures. Consistent with the Committee’s recommendations, the Australian Government is committed to implementing measures necessary to secure the Torres Strait Islander communities’ continued safe existence on their respective islands and to monitor and review the effectiveness of such measures.
60. The Australian Government avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Human Rights Committee the assurances of its highest consideration.

¹¹ Committee’s Views, [11].