

WHALES PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

FACT SHEET

- The Bill amends the *Whales Protection Act 1988* (the Act) to expand the head of power to regulate human interactions with whales and dolphins. The Act currently does not adequately allow for the regulation of recreational or commercial interactions with whales and dolphins. This is achieved by amending the definition of 'interfere' under the Act to include 'such other conduct as is prescribed by regulations made under this Act'.
- The amendment allows for the creation of regulations that manage human interactions with whales and dolphins in accordance with national guidelines and a 2006 agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania.
- The amendment creates the opportunity for increased protection of whales and dolphins and ensures the whale watching industry remains sustainable. Supporting the sustainable growth of this industry will potentially benefit local communities.
- The amendment is consistent with one of six priorities for cetacean conservation currently being considered by Australian jurisdictions.
- The Economic Reform Unit in the Department of Treasury and Finance has certified that the proposed Bill will not restrict competition or have a significant negative impact on business.