**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978   
- Reprinted as at 30 April 1988 (HISTACT CHAP 885 #DATE 30:04:1988)**

\*1\* The Australian Science and Technology Council Act 1978 as shown in this

reprint comprises Act No. 81, 1978 amended as indicated in the Tables below.

Table of Acts

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-- Act Number Date Date of Application,

and year of Assent commencement saving or

transitional

provisions

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-- Australian Science and

Technology Council Act

1978 81, 1978 22 June

1978 28 Feb 1979 (see

Gazette 1979, No.

S34, p. 1)

Public Service Reform Act

1984 63, 1984 25 June

1984 S. 151 (1): 1 July

1984 (see Gazette

1984, No. S245, p.

1) (a) S. 151 (9)

Statute Law

(Miscellaneous

Provisions) Act (No. 1)

1985 65, 1985 5 June 1985

S. 3: 3 July 1985

(b) -

as

amended

by

193, 1985 16 Dec 1985

S. 3: 13 Jan 1986

(c) S. 16

Public Service and

Statutory Authorities

Amendment Act 1985 166, 1985 11 Dec 1985

S. 45: 8 Jan 1986

(d) -

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(a) The Australian Science and Technology Council Act 1978 was

amended by section 151 (1) only of the Public Service Reform Act 1984,

subsection 2 (4) of which provides as follows:

"(4) The remaining provisions of this Act shall come into

operation on such day as is, or on such respective days as are, fixed

by Proclamation."

(b) The Australian Science and Technology Council Act 1978 was

amended by section 3 only of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Act (No. 1) 1985, subsection 2 (1) of which provides as

follows:

"(1) Subject to this section, this Act shall come into operation

on the twenty-eighth day after the day on which it receives the Royal

Assent."

(c) The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 1) 1985 was

amended by section 3 only of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1985, paragraph 2 (15) (b) of which provides

as follows:

"(15) The amendments of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions)

Act (No. 1) 1985 made by this Act shall be deemed to have come into

operation-

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

(b) in the case of the other amendments-on the twenty-eighth day

after the day on which that Act received the Royal Assent."

(d) The Australian Science and Technology Council Act 1978 was

amended by section 45 only of the Public Service and Statutory

Authorities Amendment Act 1985, subsection 2 (7) of which provides as

follows:

"(7) The remaining provisions of this Act shall come into

operation on the twenty-eighth day after the day on which this Act

receives the Royal Assent."

Table of Amendments

ad. = added or inserted am. = amended rep. = repealed rs. = repealed

and substituted

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Provision affected How affected

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- S. 19 .............. am. No. 63, 1984

S. 21 .............. am. No. 166, 1985

S. 23 .............. rep. No. 65, 1985

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**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - LONG TITLE**

**SECT**

An Act to establish an Australian Science and Technology Council

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - PART I   
 PART I-PRELIMINARY**

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 1   
Short title**

**SECT**

1. This Act may be cited as the Australian Science and Technology Council

Act 1978.\*1\*

SEE NOTES TO FIRST ARTICLE OF THIS CHAPTER .

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 2   
Commencement**

**SECT**

2. This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by

Proclamation.\*1\*

SEE NOTES TO FIRST ARTICLE OF THIS CHAPTER .

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 3   
Interpretation**

**SECT**

3. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears-

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council;

"Commonwealth authority" means-

(a) an authority or body (other than a company or association)

established for a public purpose by or under a law of the Commonwealth or of a

Territory; or

(b) a company or association over which the Commonwealth, or an

authority or body referred to in paragraph (a), is in a position to exercise

control;

"Commonwealth Department" means a Department of the Australian Public

Service or of the Public Service of the Northern Territory;

"Council" means the Australian Science and Technology Council established by

this Act;

"Deputy Chairman" means the Deputy Chairman of the Council;

"member" means a member of the Council, and includes the Chairman and the

Deputy Chairman;

"State authority" means an authority or body (other than a company or

association) established for a public purpose by or under a law of a State.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - PART II   
 PART II-ESTABLISHMENT, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF COUNCIL**

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 4   
Establishment**

**SECT**

4. There is established by this Act a Council by the name of the Australian

Science and Technology Council.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 5   
Functions**

**SECT**

5. The functions of the Council are to investigate, and to furnish

information and advice to the Commonwealth Government in respect of, matters

relating to science and technology, including the following matters:

(a) the advancement of scientific knowledge;

(b) the development and application of science and technology in relation

to the furtherance of the national well-being;

(c) the adequacy, effectiveness and overall balance of scientific and

technological activities in Australia;

(d) the identification and support of new ideas in science and technology

likely to be of national importance;

(e) the practical development and application of scientific

discoveries;

(f) the fostering of scientific and technological innovation in

industry; and

(g) the means of improving efficiency in the use of resources by the

application of science and technology.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 6   
Reports**

**SECT**

6. (1) The Council shall furnish to the Minister such reports as the

Minister requests on matters relating to its functions, and may furnish to the

Minister such other reports on matters relating to its functions as it thinks

fit.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), the Minister shall cause a report furnished

to him under sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of the Parliament

within 15 sitting days of that House after the report is received by the

Minister.

(3) Where the laying of a report before the Parliament in accordance with

sub-section (2) would result in-

(a) the disclosure of information that would, in the opinion of the

Minister, be contrary to the public interest by reason that it would prejudice

the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth or

relations between the Commonwealth and any State; or

(b) the disclosure of information received by the Council in confidence,

the Minister shall, in his discretion-

(c) cause the report to be laid before the Parliament with such deletions

as he thinks necessary to avoid that result; or

(d) cause the report not to be laid before the Parliament until he is

satisfied that laying the report before the Parliament would not have that

result.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 7   
Powers**

**SECT**

7. The Council may do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or

in connexion with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions and,

in particular, may-

(a) conduct an inquiry, including a public inquiry, into any matter being

investigated by the Council; and

(b) collect, or arrange for the collection of, information relating to any

matter being investigated by the Council.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 8   
Directions by Minister etc.**

**SECT**

8. (1) The Council shall perform its functions and exercise its powers in

accordance with such directions as are given to it by the Minister in writing.

(2) Sub-section (1) does not empower the Minister to give directions to the

Council with respect to the content of any information or advice to be

furnished under section 5 or of any report to be furnished under section 6.

(3) In formulating any advice to be furnished under section 5, or preparing

any report to be furnished under section 6, the Council shall have regard to

such policies of the Commonwealth Government as are communicated to the

Council by the Minister in writing.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 9   
Co-operation between Council and Departments etc.**

**SECT**

9. (1) In the performance of its functions in relation to any matter, the

Council shall, so far as it considers appropriate having regard to the nature

of the matter, consult with Commonwealth Departments, Commonwealth

authorities, State Departments, State authorities and scientific, commercial,

industrial and other organizations.

(2) Commonwealth Departments and Commonwealth authorities shall give to the

Council such assistance in the performance of its functions as is reasonably

practicable.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - PART III   
 PART III-CONSTITUTION AND MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 10   
Membership**

**SECT**

10. (1) The Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and not

less than 3, nor more than 13, other members.

(2) The members shall be appointed by the Governor-General and, subject to

sub-sections (3) and (4), shall be part-time members.

(3) The Chairman may be appointed either as a full-time member or as a

part-time member.

(4) The Deputy Chairman may be appointed either as a full-time member or as

a part-time member.

(5) The performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers of the

Council are not affected by reason only of-

(a) there being a vacancy in the office of Chairman or of Deputy

Chairman; or

(b) the number of members falling below 5 for a period of not more than 6

months.

(6) The members hold office on such terms and conditions (if any) in respect

of matters not provided for by this Act as are determined by the

Governor-General.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 11   
Term of office**

**SECT**

11. (1) Subject to this Part, a member holds office for such period not

exceeding-

(a) in the case of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman-5 years; or

(b) in the case of any other member-3 years, as is specified in the

instrument of his appointment, but is eligible for re-appointment.

(2) A person shall not hold office as the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman

for a continuous period exceeding 10 years.

(3) A person who has held office as the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman for

a continuous period of 10 years is not eligible for re-appointment as the

Chairman or the Deputy Chairman, as the case may be, for a term of office

commencing within 12 months after the expiration of that period.

(4) Subject to sub-section (6), a person shall not hold office as a

part-time member for a continuous period exceeding 6 years.

(5) Subject to sub-section (6), a person who has held office as a part-time

member for a continuous period of 6 years is not eligible for re-appointment

as a part-time member for a period of office commencing within 12 months after

the expiration of that period.

(6) Where-

(a) a person has held office as a part-time member for a continuous period

of 6 years or, by virtue of a previous application or previous applications of

this sub-section, a continuous period exceeding 6 years; and

(b) the Minister certifies in writing that, in his opinion, by reason of

exceptional circumstances specified in the certificate, it is desirable for

the person to continue in office, the person may be re-appointed as a

part-time member for a period of office commencing on the expiration of the

period referred to in paragraph (a).

(7) A person who has attained the age of 65 years shall not be appointed or

re-appointed as a full-time Chairman or Deputy Chairman and a person shall not

be appointed or re-appointed as a full-time Chairman or Deputy Chairman for a

period that extends beyond the date on which he will attain the age of 65

years.

(8) In this section, "part-time member" does not include the Chairman or the

Deputy Chairman.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 12   
Remuneration and allowances**

**SECT**

12. (1) A member shall be paid such remuneration as is determined by the

Remuneration Tribunal, but, if no determination of that remuneration by the

Tribunal is in operation, he shall be paid such remuneration as is prescribed.

(2) A member shall be paid such allowances as are prescribed.

(3) This section has effect subject to the Remuneration Tribunals Act 1973.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 13   
Leave of absence**

**SECT**

13. The Minister may grant leave of absence to a full-time Chairman or a

full-time Deputy Chairman on such terms and conditions as to remuneration or

otherwise as the Minister determines.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 14   
Resignation of member**

**SECT**

14. A member may resign his office by writing signed by him and delivered to

the Governor-General.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 15   
Acting appointments**

**SECT**

15. (1) During any period when there is no Chairman or when the Chairman is

absent from duty or from Australia or is, for any other reason, unable to

perform the functions of the office of Chairman-<

(a) the Deputy Chairman shall act as Chairman; or

(b) if there is no Deputy Chairman or the Deputy Chairman is not available

to act as Chairman, the Minister may appoint a person (who may be a member) to

act as Chairman, but any such appointment ceases to have effect when the

circumstances giving rise to that appointment cease.

(2) The Minister may appoint a person to act as a member during any period,

or during all periods, when a member (other than the Chairman or the Deputy

Chairman) is absent from duty or from Australia, is acting as Chairman in

accordance with sub-section (1) or is, for any other reason, unable to perform

the functions of his office.

(3) A person appointed to act in accordance with sub-section (1) or (2)

shall not continue so to act for more than 12 months.

(4) The Minister may-

(a) determine the terms and conditions of appointment, including

remuneration and allowances, of a person appointed under this section; and

(b) at any time terminate such an appointment.

(5) The appointment of a person under this section ceases to have effect if

he resigns the appointment by writing signed by him and delivered to the

Minister.

(6) At any time when a person is acting as Chairman or as a member in

accordance with this section, he has, and may exercise, all the powers and

shall perform all the functions of the Chairman or a member, as the case may

be, and, if he is not a member, shall be deemed to be a member for the

purposes of sections 17, 18, 22 and 25.

(7) The validity of anything done by a person purporting to act in

accordance with this section shall not be called in question by reason of any

defect or irregularity in or in connexion with his appointment or on the

ground that the occasion for his so acting had not arisen or had ceased.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 16   
Termination of appointment**

**SECT**

16. (1) The Governor-General may terminate the appointment of a member by

reason of misbehaviour or physical or mental incapacity.

(2) If-

(a) a full-time Chairman or a full-time Deputy Chairman engages in paid

employment outside the duties of his office without the approval of the

Minister;

(b) a full-time Chairman or a full-time Deputy Chairman is absent from

duty, except on leave granted by the Minister, for 14 consecutive days, or for

28 days in any 12 months;

(c) a part-time member is absent, except with the permission of the

Minister, from 3 consecutive meetings of the Council;

(d) a member becomes bankrupt or applies to take the benefit of any law for

the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his creditors or

makes an assignment of his remuneration for their benefit; or

(e) a member fails to comply with his obligations under section 17, the

Governor-General may terminate his appointment.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 17   
Disclosure of interest**

**SECT**

17. (1) A member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter

being considered or about to be considered by the Council, otherwise than as a

member of, and in common with the other members of, an incorporated company

which consists of more than 25 persons and of which he is not a director,

shall, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to his

knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Council.

(2) A disclosure under sub-section (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of

the meeting of the Council and the member-

(a) shall not take part in any decision of the Council with respect to that

matter; and

(b) if the Council so determines-shall not be present during any

deliberation of the Council with respect to that matter.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 18   
Meetings**

**SECT**

18. (1) The Council shall hold such meetings as are necessary for the

performance of its functions.

(2) The Minister, the Chairman or a person acting as Chairman in accordance

with paragraph 15 (1) (a) or (b) may at any time convene a meeting.

(3) At a meeting a quorum is constituted by not less than two-fifths of the

members for the time being holding office.

(4) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings at which he is present.

(5) If the Chairman is not present at a meeting but the Deputy Chairman is

present, the Deputy Chairman shall preside.

(6) If neither the Chairman nor the Deputy Chairman are present at a

meeting, the person acting as Chairman in accordance with paragraph 15 (1) (b)

shall preside or, if he is not present, the members present shall elect one of

their number to preside.

(7) Questions arising at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the

votes of the members present and voting.

(8) The person presiding at a meeting has a deliberative vote and, in the

event of an equality of votes, also has a casting vote.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - PART IV   
 PART IV-MISCELLANEOUS**

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 19   
Staff**

**SECT**

19. (1) Subject to sections 20 and 21, the staff required to assist the

Council in the performance of its functions shall be persons appointed or

employed under the Public Service Act 1922.

(2) The prescribed officer has all the powers of, or exercisable by, a

Secretary under the Public Service Act 1922, in so far as those powers relate

to the branch of the Australian Public Service comprising that staff referred

to in sub-section (1), as if that branch were a separate Commonwealth

Department.

(3) For the purposes of section 26 of the Public Service Act 1922, the

prescribed officer shall be deemed to be a Secretary.

(4) The members of the staff referred to in sub-section (1) shall perform

their functions and duties in accordance with the directions of the Council.

(5) In this section-

"prescribed officer" means-

(a) in relation to a time when the powers and functions of the

Chairman are being exercised and performed by a full-time Chairman, by a

full-time Deputy Chairman or by a person appointed under paragraph 15 (1) (b)

on a full-time basis-the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman or the person so

appointed, as the case may be; and

(b) in relation to any other time-the Secretary;

"Secretary" means the person for the time being occupying the most senior

office in the staff referred to in sub-section (1).

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 20   
Officers and employees of authorities to assist Council**

**SECT**

20. (1) Arrangements may be made between the Council and a Commonwealth

authority for the services of officers or employees of that authority to be

made available to the Council.

(2) While an officer or employee of an authority is performing services for

the Council in pursuance of an arrangement under sub-section (1), that officer

or employee is not to be subject to direction by that authority.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 21   
Engagement of consultants**

**SECT**

21. (1) The Council may, on behalf of the Commonwealth engage persons

(whether in Australia or overseas) to furnish advice to, or perform services

for, the Council otherwise than as members of the staff referred to in section

19.

(2) The terms and conditions of engagement of persons engaged under

sub-section (1) shall be such as are determined by the Council.

(3) In this section, "person" includes an unincorporated body or association

(including a partnership).

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 22   
Delegation**

**SECT**

22. (1) The Council may, by resolution, either generally or as otherwise

provided by the resolution, delegate to a member of the Council any of its

powers under this Act, other than this power of delegation.

(2) A power so delegated, when exercised by the delegate, shall, for the

purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been exercised by the Council.

(3) A delegation of a power under this section-

(a) may be revoked by resolution of the Council (whether or not constituted

by the persons constituting the Council at the time the power was delegated);

(b) does not prevent the exercise of the power by the Council; and

(c) continues in force notwithstanding a change in the membership of the

Council.

(4) Section 34A of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901 applies in relation to a

delegation under this section as if the Council were a person.

(5) A certificate signed by the Chairman of the Council stating any matter

with respect to a delegation of a power under this section is prima facie

evidence of that matter.

(6) A document purporting to be a certificate mentioned in sub-section (5)

shall, unless the contrary is established, be deemed to be such a certificate

and to have been duly given.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 24   
Committees**

**SECT**

24. (1) The Council may appoint a committee to assist the Council in

relation to any matter relating to its functions.

(2) A committee appointed under this section shall consist of such persons,

whether members or not, as the Council thinks fit.

(3) A committee shall make such investigations, and furnish to the Council

such reports, in connexion with the matter in relation to which it has been

appointed as the Council directs and, if requested by the Council to do so,

may make recommendations in relation to that matter.

(4) A member of a committee shall be paid such remuneration as is determined

by the Remuneration Tribunal but, if no determination of that remuneration by

the Tribunal is in operation, he shall be paid such remuneration as is

prescribed.

(5) A member of a committee shall be paid such allowances as are prescribed.

(6) Sub-sections (4) and (5) have effect subject to the Remuneration

Tribunals Act 1973.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 25   
Protection against actions**

**SECT**

25. (1) No action, suit or proceeding lies-

(a) against-

(i) a member of the Council;

(ii) a member of a committee appointed under section 24;

(iii) a member of the staff of the Council;

(iv) an officer or employee of a Commonwealth authority performing

services for the Council; or

(v) a consultant to the Council,

for or in relation to an act done in good faith for the purposes of

this Act; or

(b) against any person for or in relation to the giving of any information

by that person in good faith for the purposes of this Act to-

(i) the Council;

(ii) a committee appointed under section 24; or

(iii) a person referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) This section does not limit or abridge any defence existing apart from

this section.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 26   
Secrecy**

**SECT**

26. (1) This section applies to a person who is or has been-

(a) a member of the Council;

(b) a member of a committee appointed under section 24;

(c) a member of the staff of the Council;

(d) an officer or employee of a Commonwealth authority performing services

for the Council; or

(e) a consultant to the Council.

(2) A person to whom this section applies shall not, either directly or

indirectly, except for the purposes of this Act or with the permission of the

Council-

(a) make a record of, or divulge or communicate to any person, any

information acquired by reason of his office or appointment under this Act or

in the performance of his duties, or the exercise of his powers or functions,

under or in connexion with this Act; or

(b) produce to any person a document supplied to, lodged with or otherwise

acquired by, the Council under this Act.

Penalty: $1,000 or imprisonment for 3 months.

(3) The Council shall not give permission under sub-section (2) in relation

to any information or document received by the Council in confidence unless

the information or document is obtainable by the Council otherwise than in

confidence.

(4) Where the Minister is satisfied that the granting of permission by the

Council under sub-section (2) in relation to any information or any document

would be contrary to the public interest by reason that it would prejudice the

security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth or relations

between the Commonwealth and any State, he may, by notice in writing, require

the Council not to give permission under that sub-section in relation to that

information or that document without his consent, and the Council shall comply

with that requirement.

(5) Where particular information or a particular document is not information

or a document in relation to which permission has been given by the Council

under sub-section (2), a person to whom this section applies shall not be

required to divulge or communicate the information to a court or produce the

document in a court except where it is necessary to do so for the purposes of

this Act, or for the purposes of proceedings under or arising out of this Act.

(6) The Council may give permission under sub-section (2), and the Minister

may give a direction under sub-section (4), in relation to particular

information or information included in specified classes of information or in

relation to a particular document or documents included in specified classes

of documents.

(7) In this section-

"court" includes any tribunal, authority or person having power to require

the production of documents or the answering of questions;

"document" includes any record of information, however recorded or stored,

whether in written or printed form, or film, by electronic means or

otherwise;

"produce" includes permit access to.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 27   
Annual reports**

**SECT**

27. (1) The Council shall, as soon as practicable after each 30 June,

prepare and furnish to the Minister a report of the operations of the Council

during the year that ended on that date.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), a report prepared under sub-section (1)

shall set out all requests made by the Minister under sub-section 6 (1), and

all directions given by him under section 8, during the year to which the

report relates.

(3) A report prepared under sub-section (1) shall not, without the consent

of the Minister, disclose the contents of a report furnished to the Minister

under section 6 before the report so furnished has been laid before either

House of the Parliament.

(4) Subject to sub-section (5), the Minister shall cause a report furnished

to him under sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of the Parliament

within 15 sitting days of that House after the report is received by the

Minister.

(5) Where the laying of a report before the Parliament in accordance with

sub-section (2) would result in-

(a) the disclosure of information that would, in the opinion of the

Minister, be contrary to the public interest by reason that it would prejudice

the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth or

relations between the Commonwealth and any State; or

(b) the disclosure of information received by the Council in confidence,

the Minister shall, in his discretion-

(c) cause the report to be laid before the Parliament with such deletions

as he thinks necessary to avoid that result; or

(d) cause the report not to be laid before the Parliament until he is

satisfied that laying the report before the Parliament would not have that

result.

**AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL ACT 1978 - SECT 28   
Regulations**

**SECT**

28. The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this

Act, prescribing all matters that are required or permitted by this Act to be

prescribed.