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Ombudsman monitoring state anti-terror laws

The Ombudsman today released an issues paper inviting submissions on the exercise of preventative detention and covert search warrant powers under the *Terrorism (Police Powers) Act 2002*.

The Ombudsman is required to keep under scrutiny the exercise of these powers, conferred on police and other agencies, and report his findings to the Attorney General and Minister for Police.

“Our review will focus on how the legislation has been implemented by the relevant agencies and whether those exercising the powers are complying with their legislative obligations,” the Ombudsman, Mr Barbour said.

“We will also look at whether the legislation is being implemented fairly and effectively, both from the perspective of those exercising the powers and those who are searched or detained”.

The issues paper released today provides background to the legislation, identifies issues for discussion and invites submissions from interested members of the community.

Submissions are due by Friday 15 June 2007