



Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Submission to the Inquiry into the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment (Using New Technologies to Fight Climate Change) Bill 2023

Geoscience Australia

5 July 2023

Geoscience Australia is Australia's national geoscience public sector organisation. Our mission is to be a trusted source of information on Australia's geology and geography for government, industry and community decision-making. Our work covers the Australian landmass and marine jurisdiction, including external territories. Geoscience Australia delivers data of enduring value and advice that helps government, industry and the community to address challenges and enhance opportunities facing Australia now and into the future.

Geoscience Australia's capabilities in marine geoscience, geospatial information and geology underpin our advice to government on matters relevant to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters (the London Protocol) and the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*.

Our support for the adoption of the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment (Using New Technologies to Fight Climate Change) Bill 2023 (the Bill), which will give effect to Australia's international obligations arising out of the 2009 and 2013 amendments to the London Protocol, is based on:

- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a mature technology and is widely regarded, including by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as an essential tool to meet emission targets and climate goals.
- Offshore geological storage of domestically sourced CO₂ is already permitted in Australia under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act (2006)* and under the 2006 Amendment to the London Protocol.
- Australia has several competitive advantages and is an attractive proposition for the international trade of CO₂ for the purpose of geological storage, particularly to nations in the Asia-Pacific region, including an established legislative and regulatory environment, expertise in CCS regulation and monitoring, and large offshore geological storage potential.
- Marine geoengineering includes a range of technologies that have the potential to make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation.
- Australia has an opportunity to continue to promote 'best practice' in setting and adopting standards for environmental information that is used to understand the benefits and impacts of offshore CCS and marine geoengineering activities.

Geoscience Australia also provided a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Inquiry into the 2009 and 2013 amendments to the London Protocol¹. In our submission, we outlined:

- the environmental benefits and impacts of exporting and importing carbon dioxide streams for the purpose of sub-seabed sequestration (as per the 2009 amendment to the London Protocol)
- the environmental benefits and impacts of marine geoengineering activity for scientific research (as per the 2013 amendment to the London Protocol)
- the potential international markets for carbon dioxide streams, and
- the interaction of the proposed amendments with greenhouse gas inventories and regulatory and reporting streams.

Geoscience Australia continues to provide technical data, information and advice through new and updated geoscientific studies for the public good. This will both support and provide confidence in the successful, and appropriate, implementation and management of Australia's obligations under the London Protocol, including the 2009 and 2013 amendments.

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https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Climate_Change_Energy_Environment_and_Water/LondonProtocol/Submissions