



## *Public Hearing in Canberra*

# The science and application of geosequestration

Ensuring the long-term underground confinement of CO<sub>2</sub> and reducing the costs of this process are among the issues to be discussed at a public hearing with Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Canberra on Monday 4 September. The hearing is the first for the House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee's inquiry into geosequestration as a potential means to manage greenhouse gases.

Geosequestration involves the injection of compressed CO<sub>2</sub> underground into geological formations including oil and gas fields and deep saline formations. It is the focus of much interest, both within Australia and internationally, and could contribute to reducing the greenhouse emissions associated with fossil fuel power generation.

Power generation from stationary facilities, such as coal-fired power stations, is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and so methods to capture and store CO<sub>2</sub> from these from these sources could have a significant impact on emissions. A major challenge to be addressed however is cost. CSIRO has been actively involved in the science of geosequestration since 1999, and is currently undertaking research directed at reducing the costs associated with the technology.

The Committee Chair Petro Georgiou said "This inquiry is timely given current energy debates in Australia and the commencement of geosequestration trials over the next two years. The inquiry will assess the potential application of geosequestration technologies to Australia, and how Australian scientists and industry might benefit from national and international developments."

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, has requested that the Committee inquire into and report on the science and application of geosequestration technology in Australia, with particular reference to:

- The science underpinning geosequestration technology;
- The potential environmental and economic benefits and risks of such technology;
- The skill base in Australia to advance the science of geosequestration technology;
- Regulatory and approval issues governing geosequestration technology and trials; and
- How to best position Australian industry to capture possible market applications.

**Venue:** Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra  
**Date:** Monday 4 September 2006  
**4:35 pm** CSIRO  
**6:00 pm** Hearings close

The public hearing will be broadcast internally (audio only) on HMS radio frequency 98.7. Further details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/geosequestration/index.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing [scin.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:scin.reps@aph.gov.au)

**For media comment:** contact the Committee Chair Mr Petro Georgiou at Parliament House on (02) 6277 4419 or at his electorate office (03) 9882 3677.

**For information:** contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4150