



Review of a proposal to sequester carbon dioxide into sub-seabed formations

The Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Dr Andrew Southcott has announced a public hearing, examining the proposal to amend Annex 1 to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, will be held on Monday 9 October.

To be discussed is Geosequestration, a process that involves injecting carbon-dioxide directly into underground sedimentary basins and can be located either off or onshore. Declining or depleted oil and gas fields, saline aquifers, and un-minable coal seams are potential storage sites. Carbon dioxide has been injected into declining oil fields in Texas since the early 1970s to enhance oil recovery.

“The Committee will examine the treaty action and determine whether it is in Australia’s national interest,” Dr Southcott said.

The Committee will also hear further evidence on one other treaty: Amendments to Article 3 of the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement.

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra** on **Monday, 9 October 2006** from **11am**. The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service on Channel 11, radio frequency 98.3MHz and on the Parliament House website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp#> . Further information is available on the Committee’s website:

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/28march2006/tor.htm

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/co2Sequestration/index.htm>

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM – 11.00 am-12.30 pm, 9 October 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, second floor, Parliament House, Canberra

- 11.00 am Exchange of Letters constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand to Amend Article 3 of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)
- 11.30 am CO₂ Sequestration in Sub-Seabed Formations: Proposal to amend Annex 1 to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972

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