



# BHP Billiton to appear at uranium inquiry hearing

***Canberra public hearing, 2 November 2005***

Representatives of BHP Billiton, owners of Olympic Dam — the world's largest uranium deposit, will attend this Wednesday's public hearing for a parliamentary inquiry investigating the strategic importance of Australia's uranium resources.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry and Resources is conducting hearings to gather evidence for its inquiry into the development of the non-fossil fuel energy industry in Australia. The Committee has commenced its inquiry with a case study examining Australia's uranium industry.

BHP Billiton is the world's largest diversified resources company, employing some 36,000 staff across 100 operations in 25 countries. In June 2005, BHP Billiton acquired the Olympic Dam copper and uranium mine as part of the WMC Resources purchase. Olympic Dam, located in South Australia, is the world's largest known uranium deposit containing an estimated overall resource of 1.5 million tonnes of uranium oxide.

Among other matters, the Committee will receive evidence from BHP Billiton on the company's proposed \$5 billion expansion of Olympic Dam. The Committee conducted an inspection of the mine during September.

The inquiry is examining the global demand for Australia's uranium resources, the strategic importance of these resources and the potential implications for global greenhouse gas emission reductions from the further development and export of Australia's uranium resources.

Submissions to the inquiry are available on the Committee's web site:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/isr/uranium/subs.htm>

## **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

*Venue:* Committee Room 1S6, Parliament House, Canberra

9.00 am      **BHP Billiton**  
11.00 am      *Close of public hearing*

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chairman, the Hon Geoff Prosser MP, on: (02) 6277 2055 (Parliament House) or (08) 9791 1146 (Electorate Office in Bunbury, WA)

**For further information**, please contact the Inquiry Secretary on: (02) 6277 4609 or via email at [ir.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ir.reps@aph.gov.au)