



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Industry and resources
Developing Australia's non-fossil fuel energy industry

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chair: The Hon Geoff Prosser MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Michael Hatton MP

Renewable energy in Australia

Case study expanded to examine bioenergy

The Chairman of the House Industry and Resources Committee, Geoff Prosser, today announced the expansion of the terms of reference for its renewable energy case study to include examination of the bioenergy sector – converting organic matter into energy.

Various organic materials, or 'biomass', may be used to generate energy including agricultural crops, forestry and food industry residues, municipal landfill wastes, and waste streams from the agricultural industry. Biomass may be converted into bioenergy using a variety of technologies.

The House of Representatives Industry and Resources Committee announced in May that it would continue its inquiry into the development of Australia's non-fossil fuel energy industry with a new case study into selected renewable energy sectors. Bioenergy will now be examined along with the previously announced renewable energy sectors — solar, wave, tidal, geothermal, wind and hydrogen.

"The Committee has recently been reminded of the importance of bioenergy, which is an existing source of stationary base-load renewable power generation, both in Australia and overseas," Mr Prosser said today.

"Following representations made by the bioenergy sector, and with the encouragement of the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Committee has decided to expand the terms of reference for its renewables case study to also examine the bioenergy sector.

"The Committee will examine the current state of play among the renewable electricity-generating and energy-storage technologies in Australia, and determine what the prospects are for economically viable electricity generation, storage and transmission for each sector."

The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources Ian Macfarlane. Interested organisations, companies and individuals are encouraged to make written submissions addressing the terms of reference by **Friday, 29 June 2007**.

Advice on preparing a submission can be obtained from the Committee's web site <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/isr/index.htm> or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4594. Further information relating to the inquiry will be placed on the Committee's web site as the inquiry progresses.

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

For further information, please contact the Inquiry Secretary on: (02) 6277 4594 or via email at ir.reps@aph.gov.au