



Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Government of Western Australia

RECEIVED
12 OCT 2006
BY: *[Signature]*

Our Ref: 23524

Mr James Rees
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission 2
CO2 Sequestration

Dear Mr Rees

CO2 SEQUESTRATION IN SUB-SEABED FORMATIONS

I refer to the letter dated 18 September 2006 from Dr Andrew Southcott MP to the Premier regarding the above treaty action, which was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Western Australia provides the following comment:

The Western Australian Government (the Government) supports the proposal submitted by the Australian Government 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, to include carbon dioxide disposal into sub-seabed geological formations.

WA has been involved in carbon capture and storage (CCS) discussions at national and international levels, including through Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR) participation in the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) and the Ministerial Council for Minerals and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR) Regulatory Reference and Working Group that initiated the development of the *Australian Regulatory Guiding Principles for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage*. WA continues to provide input for consideration of CCS issues through membership on the MCMPR CCS Contact Officers Working Group.

DOIR is the lead agency on carbon CCS matters in Western Australia, particularly regarding the regulatory, legislative and technical aspects of this technology. The relevant contact officer in DOIR is Stuart Smith, Deputy Director General, Resources Group (08 9222 0501).

Please note that this information is not confidential and can be authorised for publication.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hatt', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Hatt
CHIEF POLICY ADVISER

cc Mr Stuart Smith, Deputy Director General, Department of Industry and Resources