

Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

1.1 The Petroleum Retail Legislation Repeal Bill 2006 was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 March 2006 by the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP.

1.2 On 30 March 2006, on the recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee for the Selection of Bills, the Senate referred the provisions of the Bill to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 2 May 2006¹.

1.3 An interim report was tabled out of session on 2 May 2006.

Conduct of the Inquiry

1.4 The Committee advertised the inquiry nationally and posted details on its internet site. In addition, it wrote to a number of organisations advising them of the inquiry and inviting them to make submissions.

1.5 The Committee received 9 submissions to its inquiry. These are listed at Appendix 1. Several supplementary submissions were also received.

1.6 The Committee held a public hearing at Parliament House in Sydney on Wednesday, 19 April 2006. A further hearing was held at Parliament House in Canberra on Monday, 8 May 2006 to hear evidence from officers from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and the ACCC. Witnesses who presented evidence at the hearings are listed in Appendix 2.

1.7 The Hansard of the Committee's hearing and copies of all submissions are tabled with this report. These documents, plus the Committee's report, are also available on the Committee's website at:

http://www.apf.gov.au/senate/committee/economics_ctte/completed_inquiries/index.htm

1.8 The Committee thanks those who participated at this inquiry.

1 Selection of Bills Committee, *Report No. 3 of 2006*.

