

## **Inquiry into the provisions of the Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 and three related bills**

On 25 June 2008, the Senate referred the provisions of the Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 and three related bills to the Standing Committee on Economics.

The Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 provides for access and property rights for greenhouse gas injection and storage activities in Commonwealth offshore waters and provides a management system for safe and secure storage. It amends the *Offshore Petroleum Act 2006* to establish a system of offshore titles that will authorise the transportation by pipeline and injection and storage of greenhouse gas substances in deep geological formations under the seabed. To achieve this aim, the bill makes changes to the existing regime of petroleum titles in order to accommodate the new kinds of activity being authorised by the Act.

The Offshore Petroleum (Annual Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008, the Offshore Petroleum (Registration Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 and the Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 amend the fees and levies Acts associated with the *Offshore Petroleum Act 2006* to include greenhouse gas activities. Specifically, these bills address annual fees, registration fees and safety fees.

The Committee will report to the Senate on 16 October 2008.

The Committee invites written submissions which should be sent to:

Committee Secretary  
Senate Economics Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

The closing date for submissions has been extended to **26 August 2008**.

The Committee requests that where possible, submissions should also be provided by email to [economics.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.sen@aph.gov.au), preferably as MS Word or RTF format documents. Notes to assist in preparing submissions are available from the website [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm) or telephone the Secretariat on 02 6277 3540, fax: 02 6277 5719, or e-mail at the above address.

Once the Committee accepts your submission, it becomes a confidential committee document and is protected by Parliamentary Privilege. You must **not** release your submission without the Committee's permission. If you do, it is not protected by Parliamentary Privilege. At some stage during the inquiry, the Committee normally makes submissions public. Please indicate if you want your submission to be kept confidential.

Inquiries from hearing and speech impaired people should be directed to the Parliament House TTY number (02 6277 7799). Adobe also provides tools for the blind and visually impaired to access PDF documents. These tools are available at: <http://access.adobe.com/>. If you require any special arrangements in order to enable you to participate in a committee inquiry, please contact the Committee Secretary.

If you need any further information, consult the Committee's website at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics\\_ctte/inquiries.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics_ctte/inquiries.htm) or contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 3540 (phone), (02) 6277 5719 (fax); or by email to [economics.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.sen@aph.gov.au) or by writing to the above address.