



Committee to review international shipping agreement

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will examine amendments to an international treaty aimed at preventing pollution from harmful substances carried by ships at sea.

Pollution from harmful substances in packaged form is a major threat to the marine and coastal environment and shipping. The revisions to Annex III of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships is intended to set new standards for the carriage of harmful substances in packaged form by ships. Under the Annex, such dangerous substances must be clearly labelled and ships carry manifests of the substances on board to facilitate inspection by port authorities before a ship departs.

Committee chair Kelvin Thomson MP said last year's experience of the *MV Rena* losing its cargo overboard as it hit rocks off New Zealand's Bay of Plenty highlights the importance of ensuring that all is done to prevent pollution from ships and the products they carry.

"The Committee will want to know that all is being done so that ships sailing in Australian, and indeed international waters, do so in accordance with the latest international safety standards for their cargo, particularly for harmful products" Mr Thomson said.

The Committee will also examine amendments to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals which list additional species of endangered migratory animals.

Public Hearing: Friday 1 June 2012, Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House Canberra — All welcome

- 9.30am Resolution MEPC.193(61): Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL) (Revised MARPOL Annex III: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form) adopted at London on 1 October 2010
- 10.00am Amendments to Appendices I and II to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 23 June 1979) done at Bergen on 25 November 2011
- 10.30am Close

Copies of the *National Interest Analysis* and treaty texts are available under Treaties tabled on 7 February 2012 at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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