



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**
Inquiry into Offshore Petroleum Act Bills

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

New National Regulator Endorsed

— Report on Offshore Petroleum Bills tabled today —

The House of Representatives Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry Committee today tabled its report on five bills amending the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 and related legislation. The five bills are:

- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (National Regulator) Bill 2011
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Registration Fees) Amendment Bill 2011
- Offshore Petroleum (Royalty) Amendment Bill 2011
- Offshore Resources Legislation Amendment (Personal Property Securities) Bill 2011
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulatory Levies Legislation Amendment (2011 Measures No. 2) Bill 2011

The bills seek to streamline Australia's regulatory system in relation to offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas related activities. They establish a single national offshore regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA); and create a new National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA).

Committee Chair Dick Adams said: "These Bills are important. There is a global trend towards integrating safety, structural integrity and environmental regulation for the offshore petroleum and gas sector in a single regulator, and these Bills are part of that trend. They also separate safety, structural integrity and environmental management from resource management issues, ensuring that safety and environmental management are not compromised by resource development decisions. This is a critical outcome in light of experience here and overseas, especially the Montara incident in the Timor Sea and the Macondo disaster in the Gulf of Mexico."

The report recommends one change to the Bills as introduced, allowing the Western Australian Government to retain its role in the negotiation and setting of royalties.

The report also recommends that the House of Representatives pass the Bills and that the NOPSEMA Advisory Board include members with environmental expertise.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (02) 6277 4293 at parliament, or at his electorate office on (03) 6398 1115, or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

Copies of the report can be obtained from the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/arff/petroleum/report.htm>

Or by contacting the secretariat on (02) 6277 4500, or by email at arff.reps@aph.gov.au