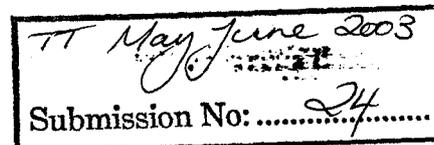




Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Government of Western Australia



Our ref: 200309810

Ms Julie Bishop MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Bishop

TREATIES TABLED ON 17 JUNE 2003

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Premier dated 18 June 2003 concerning treaties tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament on 17 June 2003.

In relation to the Protocol on preparedness, response and cooperation to pollution incidents by hazardous and noxious substances the Western Australian Department of Planning and Infrastructure have raised an issue concerning costs that may result from this treaty action. The NIA which accompanied this particular treaty action noted that responding to a hazardous and noxious pollution incident would involve the use of CHEMPLAN and that implementation costs associated with CHEMPLAN would be met from a levy on eligible commercial ships visiting Australian ports. The levy is generally seen at the moment as an oil spill levy with the intention of targeting potential polluters.

Implementing the Protocol will have likely cost implications for shipping, seaports and hazardous and noxious substance handling facilities which may require an increase in the levy. This may create an inequitable situation where eligible vessels which carry oil as fuel or cargo but no other hazardous or noxious substances will be required to pay a higher levy. Consideration may have to be given to the manner in which the existing levy might be split to accommodate vessels carrying hazardous and noxious substances in addition to oil and those vessels only carrying oil.

I hope this information will be of assistance to the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Petrice Judge
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS
23 July 2003

197 St George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000
Telephone (08) 9222 9888 Facsimile (08) 9322 1213
Email admin@dpc.wa.gov.au
ABN 61 313 082 730
TOTAL P.02