



Pensions, pollution and migratory sharks

Pensions, pollution from ships and protecting migratory sharks will be on the agenda when three treaties are examined on Monday.

The Treaties Committee will investigate the *Agreement between Australia and the Republic of India on Social Security*, which aims to close gaps in social security coverage for people migrating between the two countries. The agreement ensures that the responsibility for providing benefits is shared and that people moving between Australia and India to live or work, will find it easier to claim benefits including the aged pension and superannuation.

Committee Chair, Wyatt Roy MP, says that agreement on shared social security obligations is becoming increasingly important, as growing numbers of people live and work across national boundaries.

“In today’s mobile world, it is essential that benefits are portable and that both employers and employees are not disadvantaged. While it is important to make sure that employees receive their full entitlements, employers need to be protected from having to pay compulsory payments in both countries simultaneously.”

The *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* is the key international treaty addressing the problem of marine pollution from ships. A number of amendments have been made to the treaty to reduce the risks of marine pollution, reduce risks to the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Also on the agenda is the *Bonn Convention*, which has been in force since 1983 and aims to protect migratory species of animals, birds and fish. The current amendments add 31 species to the convention, including several varieties of hammerhead and thresher sharks that migrate through Australian waters. Australia has lodged a reservation to listing five of the species.

Public Hearing: Monday 16 March, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

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| 11.20am | <i>Agreement between Australia and the Republic of India on Social Security</i> |
| 11.50am | <i>Amendments to Appendices I and II to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Bonn Convention)</i> |
| 12.25pm | <i>Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1997 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships</i> |
| 1.00pm | Close |

The hearings will be broadcast through: www.aph.gov.au/live

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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