

Environment and Communications Legislation
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment (Using New Technologies to Fight Climate Change) Bill 2023

Question No: IQ23-000189

Division/Agency: Environmental Permitting and Compliance Division

Topic: Rationale for the London Protocol House inquiry

Question Date: 29 June 2023

Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

1. What was the rationale for requesting the House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water inquire into and report on the 2009 and 2013 amendments to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Protocol)?
2. Would the Minister please release the letter sent to the Chair of the House Standing Committee requesting the above inquiry?

Answer:

1. The inquiry was requested to assist the Parliament and broader public in understanding the complexities of emerging international issues and Australia's obligations under the London Protocol.
2. The letter sent to the Chair of the House Standing Committee requesting the inquiry is attached (MB22-001102).



THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

MB22-001102

Mr Tony Zappia
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, the Environment
and Water
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

cceew@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair

Pursuant to House of Representatives Standing Order 215(b), I write to refer to your Committee a review into the 2009 and 2013 amendments to the *1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972* (the London Protocol), which would require the amendment of the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (Cth).

The proposed terms of reference for such an inquiry could include:

- a. the environmental benefits and impacts of exporting and importing carbon dioxide streams for the purpose of sub-seabed sequestration;
- b. the environmental benefits and impacts of marine geoengineering activity, such as ocean fertilisation, for scientific research;
- c. the international market for carbon dioxide streams; and
- d. the interaction of the proposed amendments with greenhouse gas inventories and regulatory and reporting systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you wish to discuss this further

Yours sincerely

TANYA PLIBERSEK