



## Harmful and noxious substances treaty under review

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will be holding a public hearing on Monday, 4 February 2013, to examine a treaty regarding the transport of Harmful and Noxious Substances (HNS).

"The 2010 HNS Convention aims to ensure that compensation for damage or pollution resulting from the maritime transport of HNS is available", the Committee Chair, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, said.

As part of the Convention, a HNS Fund is to be established so that should damage or pollution from the carriage of HNS by ship occur, prompt, adequate and effective compensation will be available for those persons affected. This fund will be financed by contributions made by those entities that receive bulk HNS cargoes.

"The requirement to pay contributions to the fund will impose a new cost on persons and businesses that will be liable to pay the contributions; namely, the receivers of bulk HNS cargoes," Mr Thomson said.

"This is one aspect of the convention that the Committee will want to examine to see if it is in Australia's interests."

The Committee will also examine two other sets of treaties as listed below.

***Public Hearing: Monday 4 February 2013, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House  
Canberra***

- 9.15am**            **Six Air Transport Agreements between the Commonwealth of Australia and the United States, Japan, Kenya, Palau and Sri Lanka**
- 10.00am**        **The Convention and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (Cape Town, 16 November 2001)**
- 10.30am**        **The Protocol and the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in connection with the Carriage of Harmful and Noxious Substances by Sea (London, 30 April 2010).**

The hearing will be broadcast through: [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live)

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jsct/under\\_review.htm](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](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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