

***House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development and Local Government***

***REVIEW OF SHIPPING POLICY AND REGULATION***

***Terms of Reference***

A sustainable Australian coastal shipping industry plays an integral part in the Australian economy through the provision of critical infrastructure, transport linkages and a skilled maritime workforce.

The Committee is to inquire into coastal shipping policy and regulation and make recommendations on ways to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian coastal shipping sector. The Committee's report is to:

1. Outline the nature and characteristics of the Australian shipping industry and the international and coasting trades;
2. Review the policy and regulatory arrangements in place for the coastal shipping sector;
3. Assess strategies for developing an adequate skilled maritime workforce in order to facilitate growth of the Australian coastal shipping sector;
4. Consider the effect of coastal shipping policy on the development of an efficient and productive freight transport system, taking into account issues such as environmental and safety impacts and competitive neutrality between coastal shipping and other modes of transport; and
5. Consider the implications of coastal shipping policy for defence support, maritime safety and security, environmental sustainability and tourism.

The Committee is to report by October 2008.