(Amendments to be moved by Senator Waters on behalf of the Australian Greens in committee of the whole)

(1) Schedule 1, item 4, page 4 (line 29), omit “(other than the Chair)”.  
[expertise of Committee]

(2) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (line 9), at the end of subsection 505C(6), add:
; (c) public health.
[expertise of Committee]

(3) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (line 13), before “within”, insert “on its own initiative or”.
[independence from government]

(4) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (line 17), at the end of paragraph 505D(1)(a), add “, and any associated environmental and health impacts”.
[functions of Committee]

(5) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (line 18), before “within”, insert “on its own initiative or”.
[independence from government]

(6) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (line 23), at the end of paragraph 505D(1)(b), add “, and any associated environmental and health impacts”.
[functions of Committee]

(7) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (lines 24 to 32), omit paragraph 505D(1)(c), substitute:
(c) on its own initiative or at the request of the Environment Minister—to provide advice to the Environment Minister about:
   (i) how bioregional assessments should be conducted in areas where coal seam gas development or large coal mining development is being carried out or is proposed; and
(ii) priority areas in which bioregional assessments should be undertaken; and
(ca) at the request of the Environment Minister—to provide advice to the Environment
Minister about bioregional assessments commissioned by the Minister;

[Independence from government]

(8) Schedule 1, item 4, page 5 (line 33), before “at”, insert “on its own initiative or”.

[Independence from government]

(9) Schedule 1, item 4, page 6 (line 22), before “at”, insert “on its own initiative or”.

[Independence from government]

(10) Schedule 1, item 4, page 6 (after line 30), at the end of section 505D, add:

(3) The Committee must publish on the internet any advice it provides under
paragraph (1)(a), (b), (c), (ca) or (d) or (2)(a) or (b) at same time the advice is provided to
the relevant Minister.

[Advice published on Internet]

(11) Schedule 1, item 4, page 7 (after line 4), at the end of Division 2B, add:

505F Staff assisting Committee

The staff necessary to assist the Committee are to be persons engaged under the Public
Service Act 1999 who are:
(a) employed in the Department; and
(b) made available for the purpose by the Secretary of the Department.

[Staff assisting Committee]

(12) Schedule 1, page 7 (after line 8), after item 5, insert:

5A Subsection 507(1)

Repeal the subsection, substitute:

(1) A member of a Committee holds office for the period specified in the instrument of
appointment. The period must not be less than 3 years and must not exceed 5 years.

Note 1: For re-appointment, see section 33AA of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901.
Note 2: Section 509 sets out the circumstances in which a member’s appointment may be (or must be)
terminated.

5B Application of item 5A

The amendment made by item 5A applies in relation to an appointment made on or after the
commencement of this Schedule.

[Appointment]

(13) Schedule 1, page 7 (after line 8), after item 5, insert:

5C Before subsection 510(1)

Insert:

(1A) The minutes of a meeting of a Committee must be published on the internet by that
Committee within 7 days of the meeting to which the minutes relate.

[Minutes published on Internet]
(14) Schedule 1, page 8 (after line 14), at the end of the Schedule, add:

12 Aquifer drilling—moratorium

(1) A person commits an offence if:
   (a) the person takes an action; and
   (b) the person takes the action for the purposes of, or in connection with, coal seam gas mining; and
   (c) the action is, or results in, drilling through or into an aquifer; and
   (d) the drilling occurs before the earliest of the following:
      (i) 5 years from the commencement of this item;
      (ii) the conclusion of the full 5-year research program of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development.

Penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

(2) Subitem (1) applies only if:
   (a) the person is a corporation to which paragraph 51(xx) of the Constitution applies; or
   (b) the action is taken for the purposes of trade or commerce:
      (i) between Australia and another country; or
      (ii) between 2 States; or
      (iii) between a State and a Territory; or
      (iv) between 2 Territories; or
   (c) the action is taken in a Territory.

(3) Subitem (1) does not apply if the action is taken to facilitate scientific research to better understand the interaction of groundwater systems and the impact on those systems of coal seam gas mining.

(4) This item has effect despite any provision of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 or any other Act.

[aquifer drilling—5-year moratorium]