



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 25 February 2010

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 6.05 pm

Legislation

[For bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bill was introduced

- ❑ Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 24 February 2010]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings]

- ❑ Corporations Amendment (Financial Market Supervision) Bill 2010
- ❑ Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill 2010
- ❑ National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment Bill 2010

The following bill was debated

- ❑ Fairer Private Health Insurance Incentives Bill 2009 [No. 2]—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bill was defeated by a majority vote

- ❑ Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009—defeated at second reading [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were introduced, debated and passed

- ❑ Australian Astronomical Observatory Bill 2009 and a related bill [These bills will now be assented to]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Aviation Transport Security Amendment (2009 Measures No. 2) Bill 2009
- ❑ International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2009
- ❑ National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment Bill 2010
- ❑ National Health Security Amendment (Background Checking) Bill 2009

[These bills will now be assented to]

Messages from the House of Representatives

Reported

- Health Insurance Amendment (Compliance) Bill 2009–House of Representatives insisted on disagreeing to the amendments insisted on by the Senate on [26 November 2009](#) and made an amendment [The Senate will consider the message on a future sitting day]

Considered

- Tax Laws Amendment (Political Contributions and Gifts) Bill 2008–disagreeing to the amendments made by the Senate and making amendments in their place [The Senate did not insist on its amendments and agreed to the [replacement amendments](#) made by the House. The bill will now be assented to.]

See **Committees** for details of reports relating to legislation

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Estimates

Documents tabled

[Additional information](#) arising from estimates hearings was tabled.

Reports relating to estimates hearings tabled

- Additional estimates 2009-10–[Eight committees](#)

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- [Defence Amendment](#) (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008 [No. 2]–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee [statements were made in relation to the report – [first speaker](#)]
- [Do Not Call Register](#) Legislation Amendment Bill 2009–Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee
- [Occupational Health and Safety](#) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009–Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee
- [Tax Laws Amendment](#) (2009 Measures No. 6) Bill 2009–Economics Legislation Committee
- [Textile, Clothing and Footwear](#) Strategic Investment Program Amendment (Building Innovative Capability) Bill 2009–Economics Legislation Committee

Other reports

- Electoral Matters Joint Committee–[Implications](#) of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Amendment (Automatic Enrolment) Act 2009* (NSW) for the conduct of Commonwealth elections [a motion to take note of the report was debated and agreed to – [first speaker](#)]

- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—[Security challenges](#) facing Papua New Guinea and the island states of the southwest Pacific [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]
- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—Import restrictions on beef—[Second interim report](#) [a motion to extend the final reporting date to 11 March 2010 was agreed to]
- ❑ Publications Committee—[16th Report](#) [report adopted]

Government responses tabled

- ❑ Community Affairs Committee—Highway to health: better access for rural, regional and remote patients
- ❑ Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—Management of Australia’s waste streams (including consideration of the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008)
- ❑ Finance and Public Administration Committee—Item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007
- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—Review of the Defence annual report 2006-07
- ❑ Treaties Joint Committee—106th report: Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted report no. 3 of the Selection of Bills Committee [see Journals entries nos [42](#) and [55](#)], and made the following references:

- ❑ Health Practitioner Regulation (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010—Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 9 May 2010
- ❑ National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 30 April 2010
- ❑ Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2010 [No. 2]

Other reference

- ❑ [Future direction and role](#) of the Scrutiny of Bills Committee—Scrutiny of Bills Committee—to report by 12 May 2010

Proposed references

The Senate did not agree to refer the following matters to committees:

- ❑ [Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill 2010](#) and 10 related bills—Economics Legislation Committee [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ [Toxicity of the George River](#), Tasmania—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee [[first speaker](#)]

Public meeting

The Senate authorised the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee to hold a public meeting while the Senate is sitting on 25 February 2010 from 5.00 pm for the committee’s inquiry into import restrictions on beef.

Reporting date extended

The Senate extended the reporting date for the inquiry of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee into Australia's administration and management of the Torres Strait to 13 May 2010.

Membership

The Senate appointed Senator Bushby to replace Senator Kroger on the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee for the committee's inquiry into the Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010 and related bills, and appointed Senator Kroger as a participating member.

Documents

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

- [Clerk's documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

Notice of intention to withdraw notices

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances gave a [notice of intention](#) to withdraw a notice to disallow the A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) (Release of Protected Information) (DEEWR) Determination 2009 (No. 1), made under subsection 162(3) of the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Administration Act 1999* [[homepage](#)].

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Carr) to table documents relating to proposed sites for a Commonwealth radioactive waste dump, no later than 4.00 pm on 11 March 2010.

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

Letters of advice for [various portfolios](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Health Insurance—Anti-competitive practices

A report by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on anti-competitive and other practices by health funds and providers in relation to private health insurance was tabled [The report was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on [25 March 1999](#) on the motion of Senator Harradine and amended on [18 September 2002](#)]

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

Statements of compliance for [various portfolios](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

