



Senate Daily Summary

Monday, 31 October 2011

The Senate met from 10.00 am until 10.29 pm

New Senator

Senator Arthur Sinodinos was sworn in as a senator for New South Wales to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation, on 22 August 2011, of Senator Coonan.

Legislation

[Bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Steel Transformation Plan Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 12 October 2011] [procedural motions relating to the consideration of the bill were debated and agreed to – [first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2011 Measures No. 7) Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 October 2011]
- ❑ Work Health and Safety Bill 2011 and a related bill [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 October 2011]

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Clean Energy Bill 2011 and 17 related bills—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

[Notices of motion](#)

To introduce private senators' bills

- ❑ Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Protecting Australia's Water Resources) Bill 2011—notice given by Senator Waters
- ❑ Public Accounts and Audit Committee Amendment (Ombudsman) Bill 2011—notice given by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

Consideration of private senators' bills

A [notice](#) was given by the Minister for Sport (Senator Arbib) to dispense with the consideration of private senators' bills on 3 November 2011 to enable the Government's legislative program to be considered.

Bills assented to

[Assent](#) to a number of laws was reported in the Senate.

Committees

[Scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[Committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

- ❑ Community Affairs References Committee–
 - Funding and administration of mental health services [[interim](#) and [second interim](#) reports] [a motion to extend the reporting date to 1 November 2011 was agreed to]
 - Review of the Professional Services Review (PSR) Scheme [[report](#)]
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee–International parental child abduction to and from Australia [[report](#)]
- ❑ Public Works Joint Committee–Public works on Christmas Island [[report](#)]

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- ❑ Economics References Committee–31 October 2011 from 1.30 pm–private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee–1 November 2011 from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm–public meeting
- ❑ Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–
 - 2 November 2011 from 11.00 am to noon–private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1), followed by a private briefing, and from noon to 1.00 pm–public meeting
 - 23 November 2011 from 11 am to 1.00 pm–private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)

Reporting date extended

The Senate extended the reporting date for the inquiry of the Economics References Committee into the capital market for social economy organisations to 22 November 2011.

[Notices of motion](#)

To determine the chair of a committee

- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee–Chair of the committee to be a minor party or independent senator–notice given by the Minister for Sport (Senator Arbib)

To extend a reporting deadline

- ❑ Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee—Operational issues in export grain networks—to report by the last sitting day in March 2012

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- ❑ Cyber Safety Joint Select Committee—2 November 2011 from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm—private briefing
- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—
 - 2 November 2011 from 11.00 am to noon—public meeting
 - 22 November 2011 from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm—public meeting

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, including Governor-General's Proclamations]

Orders for the production of documents

Documents tabled

The following documents were tabled in response to orders of the Senate:

- ❑ The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Ludwig)—[Information relating to New Zealand apple exports](#) [tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on [20 September 2011](#)]
- ❑ The Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator Ludwig)—[Advice relating to audits of dentists by Medicare Australia](#) [tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on [19 September 2011](#)]

Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies

Letters of advice for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Departmental and agency grants

Letters of advice for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

[Notices of motion](#)

The following notices of motion were given requiring Ministers to table the following documents:

- ❑ Budget expenditure and revenue projections of certain measures linked to the Mineral Resource Rent Tax—no later than 5.00 pm on 3 November 2011—notice given by Senator Cormann

- ❑ Correspondence between the Minister for Health and Ageing (Ms Roxon) and the Future Fund—no later than noon on 2 November 2011—notice given by Senator Cormann

Documents tabled

- ❑ Auditor-General—[Audit report](#) no. 9 of 2011-12
- ❑ Australian parliamentary delegation—Denmark, Sweden and Greece—2 to 16 April 2011—Report
- ❑ Australian Parliamentary Service Commissioner—Report for 2010-11
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ Responses to Senate resolutions about—
 - National Police Remembrance Day—from the Office of the Commissioner of Police of New South Wales [resolution agreed to on [22 September 2011](#)]
 - Recent oil spill in New Zealand—from the New Zealand High Commissioner (Major General (Rtd) Martyn Dunne, CNZM) [resolution agreed to on [13 October 2011](#)]

Ministerial statement tabled

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers (Senator McLucas) tabled a ministerial statement about Afghanistan.

Other business

[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—first question](#)
[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motions negatived

- ❑ [Funding for two programs](#) run by the Australian Academy of Science—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- ❑ [Global financial transaction tax](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- ❑ [Human rights in Tibet](#)—moved by Senator Hanson-Young
- ❑ [Indigenous Australians](#) and gas mining in the Kimberley—moved by Senators Boswell, Scullion, Cash, Cormann, Eggleston, Back, Adams and Johnston
- ❑ [Military involvement in Afghanistan](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) [debated as a matter of urgency – [first speaker](#)]
- ❑ [Nuclear disarmament](#)—moved by Senator Ludlam
- ❑ [Uranium sales](#)—moved by Senator Ludlam

Death of Australian Defence Force Personnel

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) [moved](#) that the Senate records its deep sorrow at the death of Captain Bryce Duffy, Corporal Ashley Birt and Lance Corporal Luke Gavin while on combat operations in Afghanistan. The motions were carried.

Proposed suspension of standing orders

The Senate did not agree to a motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Abetz) to suspend standing orders to enable debate on a motion relating to the consideration of the Clean Energy Bill 2011 and related bills [[first speaker](#)].

Days of meeting

A [notice of motion](#) was given to establish the days of meeting for 2012.

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

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Online

The *Senate Daily Summary* is available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the *Journals of the Senate*, at www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/journals/index.htm.

Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or 'Senate Red') and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

Contact details

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