



# Senate Daily Summary

## Tuesday, 26 August 2008

The Senate met from 12.00 noon until 6.00pm

### Senators

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#### New senators

Certificates of election for [senators elected](#) on 24 November 2007 to serve in the Senate from 1 July 2008 were tabled. The senators made and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

#### Death of former senators

The President informed the Senate of the deaths of two former senators:

- on 10 July 2008, Donald Michael Devitt, a senator for Tasmania from 1965 to 1978—[motion](#) moved by the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Conroy) and supported
- on 13 July 2008, the Honourable Peter Drew Durack, a senator for Western Australia from 1971 to 1993—[motion](#) moved by the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Conroy) and supported

### Election of officers

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Senators [Hogg](#) (ALP, Qld) and [Milne](#) (AG, Tas) were both proposed to take the office of President of the Senate. Senator Hogg was declared elected after a ballot was held (Senator Hogg 68 votes, Senator Milne 6 votes).

Senator [Ferguson](#) (LP, SA) was elected unopposed to take the office of Deputy President of the Senate and Chair of Committees.

## Legislation

Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <[www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm)>

### Notices of motion

To introduce private senators' bills

- Building and Construction Industry (Restoring Workplace Rights) Bill 2008—notice given by Senator Siewert
- Food Safety (Trans Fats) Bill 2008—notice given by Senator Siewert

### Bills assented to

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

See *Committees* for details of reports relating to legislation

## Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

### Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- [National Health](#) Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008—Community Affairs Committee
- Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No. 2]— Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—[Interim report](#) and [final report](#) [A [motion](#) to take note of the report was debated]
- [Tax Laws Amendment](#) (2008 Measures No. 4) Bill 2008—Economics Committee
- [Trade Practices](#) (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—Economics Committee
- [Trade Practices](#) Legislation Amendment Bill 2008—Economics Committee

### Other reports

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee—Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations—[Interim report](#) and [final report](#) [A [motion](#) to take note of the report was debated]
- National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee—[The way forward](#) – Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority [A [motion](#) to take note of the report was debated]
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and related matters—[Interim report](#)
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—Implementation, operation and administration of the legislation underpinning Carbon Sink Forests—[Interim report](#) [reporting date for the final report extended to 28 August 2008]

### Additional information tabled

- Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]—Community Affairs Committee

- National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008—Community Affairs Committee

### **Government responses tabled**

- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee—Indigenous art: Securing the future—Australia’s Indigenous visual arts and craft sector
- Finance and Public Administration Committee—Departmental and agency contracts: Second report on the operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts (2003-06)

### **Proposed reference**

The Senate debated a motion moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) to refer matters relating to the [Exclusive Brethren](#) to the Community Affairs Committee. The debate will continue on the next day of sitting.

### **Recommendation endorsed**

The Senate agreed to endorse the [recommendation](#) of the Community Affairs Committee contained in its report on the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

### **Notices of motion given**

To extend reporting deadlines:

- Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 28 August 2008
- Lobbying code of conduct—Finance and Public Administration Committee—to report by 3 September 2008
- State Government Financial Management Select Committee—to report by 17 September 2008
- Waste management in Australia and the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 3 September 2008

To refer matters to committees:

- [Great Barrier Reef](#) Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 10 November 2008—notice given by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
- [Provision of water](#) from and sustainable management of the Murray-Darling Basin system—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—notice given by Senator Hanson-Young, the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) and Senators Siewert and Xenophon
- Sourcing and delivery of water to the [Coorong and Lower Lakes](#)—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 30 September 2008—notice given by the Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong)

## Membership

The Senate appointed the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding) as a participating member of the Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities Select Committee and the National Broadband Network Select Committee.

## Documents

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### 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]

### Notices of motion withdrawn

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wortley) withdrew notices of motion to disallow [4 instruments](#).

See **Documents** for details of instruments [[Clerk's documents](#)] tabled

### Orders for the production of documents

#### Notices of motion given

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

- Documents relating to the potential marine impact of effluent from the Gunns pulp mill—no later than 4.00pm on 28 August 2008—[notice](#) given by Senator Milne
- Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) to table documents relating to the Coorong and Lower Lakes—no later than 12 noon on 28 August 2008—[notice](#) given by Senators Bernardi, Birmingham, Ferguson, Fisher and Minchin

#### Orders with continuing effect

*Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet*

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

*Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet*

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) 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]

#### *Unproclaimed legislation*

A document was tabled showing details of unproclaimed Acts, together with a statement of reasons for non-proclamation and a timetable for their operation [[Standing order 139\(2\)](#) requires tabling before 31 August each year]

