

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable John Hogg) took the chair and read prayers.

2 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled:

Australian Federal Police—Ministerial direction, 25 August 2008—Government's expectations and priorities for the AFP.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2008.

Finance—Budget 2008-09—Budget paper no. 3—Australia's federal relations—Corrigendum.

Indigenous education and training—Report for 2006.

Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 2007-08.

3 LEADER OF THE NATIONALS IN THE SENATE

Senator Joyce, by leave, informed the Senate of his appointment as Leader of The Nationals in the Senate.

4 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OPENING SPEECH—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

The Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig), pursuant to notice, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—That—

- (a) the address-in-reply be presented to Her Excellency the Governor-General by the President and such senators as may desire to accompany him; and
- (b) on Monday, 22 September 2008, the Senate suspend at 5 pm, for the purposes of presenting the address-in-reply to the Governor-General.

Question put and passed.

5 ARCHIVES AMENDMENT BILL 2008

BROADCASTING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DIGITAL RADIO) BILL 2008

The Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner), also at the request of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Senator Conroy) and pursuant to notice, moved government business notices of motion nos 2 and 3—That the following bills be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Archives Act 1983*, and for related purposes.

A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to broadcasting, and for other purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Faulkner presented the bills and moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Faulkner moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

Explanatory memoranda: Senator Faulkner tabled explanatory memoranda [2] relating to the bills.

Consideration of legislation: Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the first day in the next period of sittings.

Senator Faulkner moved—That the bills be listed on the *Notice Paper* as separate orders of the day.

Question put and passed.

6 FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONSOLIDATION) BILL 2008

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (Senator Carr)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

At 12.45 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Crossin was speaking.

7 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Matters of public interest were discussed.

At 2 pm—

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

9 MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS

Senator Bernardi moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) to questions without notice asked by Senators Fisher and Brandis today relating to single age pensions and to terrorism trials.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Senator Milne moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (Senator Carr) to a question without notice asked by Senator Milne today relating to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation wool scour at Belmont in Victoria.

Question put and passed.

10 NOTICES

Notices of motion:

The Chair of the Community Affairs Committee (Senator Moore): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Community Affairs Committee be authorised to hold public meetings during the sittings of the Senate, from 3 pm, as follows:

- (a) on Monday, 22 September 2008, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the draft National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits — Charges) Regulations 2008; and
- (b) on Thursday, 25 September 2008, to take evidence for the committee's inquiries into the draft National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits — Charges) Regulations 2008, the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, the Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and the ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 197*)

The Chair of the Community Affairs Committee (Senator Moore): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of reports of the Community Affairs Committee be extended as follows:

- (a) special disability trusts—to 16 October 2008; and
- (b) petrol sniffing and substance abuse in central Australia—to the last sitting day in March 2009. (*general business notice of motion no. 198*)

The Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee (Senator Sterle): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 18 September 2008, from 4.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiries into the management of the Murray-Darling Basin system and the Emergency Water (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 199*)

Senator Coonan: To move on 22 September 2008—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991* to increase payments to single age pensioners and part pensioners by \$30 per week. ***Urgent Relief for Single Age Pensioners Bill 2008***. (*general business notice of motion no. 200*)

Senator Fifield: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate condemns the Rudd Government for its reckless management of the Australian economy in a time of global economic challenge, including:

- (a) the Government's irresponsibility in talking down the Australian economy;
- (b) the massive collapse in consumer and business confidence since the election of the Rudd Government;
- (c) the delivery of a budget that forecasts an increase in unemployment;
- (d) the Government's raising of inflationary expectations and failure to honour its promise to address cost of living pressures; and
- (e) the absence of a coherent economic strategy and a focus on presentation rather than policy. (*general business notice of motion no. 201*)

Senator Ludlam: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) 18 September 2008 marks one year since the peaceful uprising in Burma that became known as the 'Saffron Revolution', led by Buddhist monks, many still in detention or their whereabouts unknown, and

- (ii) two weeks of peaceful marches and rallies calling for democracy were brutally suppressed by the Burmese military regime at the cost of an unknown number of lives, injuries and ongoing detention;
- (b) calls on the Australian Government to:
- (i) work actively within the United Nations (UN) to challenge the credentials of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) holding the seat at the UN,
 - (ii) propose a set of benchmarks for measuring the success of UN engagement with the SPDC, including the release of all political prisoners as a benchmark for the December 2008 visit to Burma by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
 - (iii) use all diplomatic and economic means available to achieve the release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the approximately 200 monks and nuns and others arrested since September 2007,
 - (iv) urge the SPDC to stop all religious persecution, guarantee freedom of religion and respect the fundamental human rights of all the people of Burma,
 - (v) make a priority of Australian foreign policy measures to have the SPDC engage in inclusive and time-bound dialogue with the pro-democracy and ethnic representatives to achieve genuine democracy, and
 - (vi) evaluate what other measures the Government can take in direct or indirect support of the Burmese pro-democracy movement; and
- (c) expresses its ongoing support for the democratic aspirations and human rights of the people of Burma. (*general business notice of motion no. 202*)

The Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig): To move on the next day of sitting—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

First Home Saver Accounts (Further Provisions) Amendment Bill 2008
 First Home Saver Account Providers Supervisory Levy Imposition Bill 2008.

Document: Senator Ludwig tabled the following document:

Consideration of legislation—Statement of reasons for introduction and passage of the bills in the 2008 spring sittings.

Notice of motion withdrawn: Senator Barnett, pursuant to notice of intention given on 16 September 2008, withdrew business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in his name for today for the disallowance of item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007, as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2007 No. 355 and made under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

11 COMMITTEES—EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO REPORT

Senator McEwen, by leave and at the request of the chairs of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee and the Select Committee on State Government Financial Management, moved—That—

- (a) the time for the presentation of the report of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee on the examination of annual reports tabled by 30 April 2008 be extended to 13 November 2008; and
- (b) the time for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on State Government Financial Management be extended to 18 September 2008.

Question put and passed.

12 CITIZENSHIP DAY

Senator Ellison, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 194—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) that Wednesday, 17 September 2008 is Citizenship Day,
 - (ii) the Coalition established this day of commemoration of the diversity of the Australian community in 2001,
 - (iii) this is a day to celebrate the contribution to the wealth and progress of Australia by our diverse society and a tribute to all those who have contributed to and continue to build Australia's future, and
 - (iv) that Australian citizenship is the cornerstone of our inclusive and culturally diverse society, representing loyalty to Australia and its people, a share belief in the democratic process, respect for the rights and liberties of other Australians and a commitment to uphold and obey Australia's laws; and
- (b) urges the Rudd Labor Government to ensure that there are sufficient resources available so that all those who sit the test can adequately prepare for and understand the citizenship test.

Question put and passed.

13 SENATE—DOCUMENTS—INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY

Senator Parry, at the request of Senator Bernardi and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 193—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the difficulties experienced by people with a disability, particularly people with vision impairment, in accessing some formats of Senate documents online; and
- (b) calls on the Government and the Department of the Senate to ensure all Hansard and Senate committee documents are made accessible via the Internet to people with a disability as soon as they become public.

Question put and passed.

14 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator McEwen, at the request of the Deputy Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (Senator Barnett) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 191—That the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 18 September 2008, from 4 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Laws Bill 2008 [No. 2].

Question put and passed.

15 DEFENCE AMENDMENT (PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF OVERSEAS SERVICE) BILL 2008 [No. 2]

Senator Ludlam, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 195—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Act 1903* to provide for parliamentary approval of overseas service by members of the Defence Force.

Question put and passed.

Senator Ludlam presented the bill and moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Ludlam moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Ludlam in continuation.

16 RESTORING TERRITORY RIGHTS (VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA LEGISLATION) BILL 2008

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 196—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend certain territory legislation to restore legislative powers concerning euthanasia and to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997*, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Bob Brown presented the bill and moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Bob Brown moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Bob Brown in continuation.

17 HEALTH—FOOD COLOURINGS

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 192—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

- (i) recent research published in *The Lancet* (vol. 370, 3 November 2007) that highlights possible negative behavioural impacts on children associated with the consumption of the following food colourings: Tartrazine (lemon yellow) (102), Quinoline yellow (104), Sunset yellow (110), Carmoisine (red) (122), Ponceau 4R (red) (124) and Allura red AC (129),
- (ii) that in April 2008, the United Kingdom's Food Standards Agency called for a ban on the use of these food colourings and the voluntary removal of these colourings by food manufacturers,
- (iii) that in July 2008, the European Parliament passed legislation mandating the labelling of any food products containing these colourings, and
- (iv) that these food colourings are currently approved for use in Australia by Food Standards Australia New Zealand; and

(b) calls on the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas) to place the issue of banning these food colourings on the agenda of the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council scheduled for 24 October 2008.

Statement by leave: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

Brown, Bob	Hanson-Young	Milne	Xenophon
Fielding	Ludlam	Siewert (Teller)	

NOES, 45

Senators—

Adams	Collins	Forshaw	Nash
Arbib	Conroy	Furner	Parry (Teller)
Bilyk	Cormann	Humphries	Polley
Birmingham	Crossin	Hurley	Pratt
Bishop	Eggleston	Joyce	Ryan
Boyce	Ellison	Ludwig	Sterle
Brown, Carol	Farrell	Lundy	Troeth
Bushby	Feeney	Marshall	Williams
Cameron	Ferguson	McEwen	Wortley
Carr	Fierravanti-Wells	McGauran	
Cash	Fifield	McLucas	
Colbeck	Fisher	Moore	

Question negatived.

18 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ENVIRONMENT—MURRAY-DARLING BASIN SYSTEM

The Deputy President (Senator Ferguson) informed the Senate that Senator Fisher had proposed that the following matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion:

The failure of the Rudd Government to deliver its promise of evidence-based policy when working towards a solution for the water crisis facing communities throughout the Murray-Darling Basin, including:

- (a) its attempts to both bring water back into and distribute water from the Basin, and in particular:
 - (i) the purchase of Toorale Station and foreshadowed conversion of a food and fibre producer to a national park, and
 - (ii) the construction of a pipeline to take 110 gigalitres of water from the Basin to supply the city of Melbourne; and
- (b) its failure to act to better collect, store, use and re-use water.

The proposal was supported by four senators and the matter was discussed.

19 SCRUTINY OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—9TH REPORT AND ALERT DIGEST NO. 9 OF 2008

Senator Nash, at the request of the Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Ellison), tabled the following report and document:

Scrutiny of Bills—Standing Committee—

9th report of 2008, dated 17 September 2008.

Alert Digest No. 9 of 2008, dated 17 September 2008.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Nash.

Senator Nash moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Question put and passed.

20 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—FIRST REPORT OF 2008

The Chair of the Procedure Committee (Senator Ferguson) tabled the following report:

Procedure—Standing Committee—First report of 2008—Restructuring question time; Reference of bills to committees; Questions to chairs of committees; Deputy chairs of committees; Leave to make statements, dated September 2008.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Ferguson.

Senator Ferguson, by leave, moved—That consideration of the report be made a business of the Senate order of the day for the next day of sitting.

Question put and passed.

Senator Ferguson moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Ferguson in continuation.

21 ECONOMICS—A NATIONAL CONSUMER LAW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—DOCUMENT

The Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry) tabled the following document:

Economics—A national consumer law—Ministerial statement by the Assistant Treasurer (Mr Bowen), dated 17 September 2008.

22 COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN—MONITORING OF CONTROLLED OPERATIONS—REPORT FOR 2007-08—DOCUMENT

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Carol Brown) tabled the following document:

Commonwealth Ombudsman—Report for 2007-08 on the Ombudsman's activities in monitoring controlled operations conducted by the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.

23 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

[Legislative instruments are identified by a Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) number]

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—Part—

105—

- AD/B727/100 Amdt 4—Elevator Rear Spar [F2008L03422]*.
- AD/B747/382—Section 41 Fuselage Skins [F2008L03421]*.
- AD/BEECH 55/97—Circuit Breaker Toggle Switches [F2008L03401]*.
- AD/BEECH 56/35—Circuit Breaker Toggle Switches [F2008L03400]*.
- AD/BEECH 77/16—Circuit Breaker Toggle Switches [F2008L03399]*.
- AD/BEECH 200/37—Nacelle Fuel Tank Probe [F2008L03406]*.
- AD/CESSNA 206/6—Fuel System Drain Cock [F2008L03398]*.
- AD/CESSNA 206/13—Alternator Earth Lead [F2008L03397]*.
- AD/CESSNA 206/15—Right Hand Wing Rear Spar [F2008L03393]*.
- AD/CESSNA 206/26—Ammeter Type and Position [F2008L03392]*.
- AD/CESSNA 206/35—Cylinder Head Temperature Probe [F2008L03391]*.
- AD/CESSNA 303/1—Fuel Hose Clamping – Improvement [F2008L03350]*.
- AD/CESSNA 303/10—Auxiliary Fuel Pump Wiring Modification [F2008L03349]*.
- AD/CESSNA 400/87—Aileron Yoke Mounting Bracket Attachment – Inspection and Modification [F2008L03300]*.
- AD/CESSNA 400/116—Duel Battery Switch [F2008L03415]*.
- AD/CESSNA 400/117—Powerplant Electrical Wiring [F2008L03416]*.
- AD/CESSNA 500/7—Landing Gear Unlock Actuator and Control System [F2008L03377]*.
- AD/CESSNA 500/8—Static System Drainage – Inspection [F2008L03376]*.
- AD/CESSNA 500/14—Exhaust Nozzle Cone – Replacement [F2008L03371]*.
- AD/CESSNA 500/21—Nitrogen Bottle Installation – Inspection [F2008L03370]*.
- AD/DHC-1/10—Superseded by AD/DHC-1/15 [F2008L03279]*.
- AD/DHC-8/142—Spoiler Disconnect Sensing Device [F2008L03367]*.
- AD/DHC-8/143—Nose Landing Gear Electrical Harness [F2008L03366]*.
- AD/ECUREUIL/40—Tail Rotor Gearbox Casing [F2008L03418]*.
- AD/JBK 117/29—Cyclic Stick – Modification [F2008L03365]*.
- AD/PA-32/15 Amdt 2—Rudder Trim Arm Assembly Cracking [F2008L03262]*.

AD/PA-32/20—Seat Frame – Modification [F2008L03439]*.
 AD/PA-32/44—Throttle Linkage Bolts – Replacement [F2008L03340]*.
 AD/PA-32/45—Lower Cowl Drain – Inspection and Modification [F2008L03339]*.
 AD/PA-32/60—Manually Trippable Breaker for Pitch Trim Circuit – Installation [F2008L03334]*.
 AD/ROCK-114/7—Landing Gear Retract Cylinder Retainer and Rod End Lockwasher – Installation [F2008L03353]*.
 AD/ROCK-114/9—Fuel Tank Access Door Sealant – Replacement [F2008L03352]*.
 AD/SF340/108—Hydraulic System Accumulators [F2008L03351]*.

106—AD/AE 3007/6—High Pressure Turbine Stage 2 Wheels [F2008L03457]*.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—Defence Determinations—

2008/43—Salary non-reduction – amendment.

2008/44—Post indexes and removals – amendment.

Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 81/02 — Fuel Consumption Labelling for Light Vehicles) 2008 Amendment 2 [F2008L03455]*.

Navigation Act—Marine Order No. 9 of 2008—Part 1 — Incidental Marine Order [F2008L03460]*.

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Parliamentary Entitlements Regulations—Consolidated statement of expenditure under Part 3, dated 15 September 2008.

* Explanatory statement tabled with legislative instrument.

24 INDEXED LISTS OF DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY FILES—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended:

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 January to 30 June 2008—Statements of compliance—

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio agencies.

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio agencies.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio agencies [2].

25 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Carol Brown) informed the Senate that the President had received a letter nominating a senator to be a member of a committee.

The Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry), by leave, moved—That Senator Bob Brown be appointed as a member of the Standing Committee of Senators' Interests.

Question put and passed.

**26 FIRST HOME SAVER ACCOUNTS (FURTHER PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2008
FIRST HOME SAVER ACCOUNT PROVIDERS SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION
BILL 2008**

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:

Message no. 149, dated 17 September 2008—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to first home saver accounts, and for other purposes.

Message no. 148, dated 17 September 2008—A Bill for an Act to impose a levy in relation to the provision of first home saver accounts.

The Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry) moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Sherry moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

Consideration of legislation: Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the first day in the next period of sittings.

27 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (2008 MEASURES NO. 4) BILL 2008

A message from the House of Representatives was reported agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bill:

Message no. 147, dated 17 September 2008—Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 4) Bill 2008.

28 COMMITTEES—REPORTS—ANNUAL REPORTS

Pursuant to order, Senator McEwen, at the request of the chairs of the respective committees, tabled the following reports:

Reports on annual reports referred to committees—No. 2 of 2008, dated September 2008—

Community Affairs Committee.

Economics Committee.

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee.

Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee.

Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Reports ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator McEwen.

Senator Bishop, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee.

Question put and passed.

29 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of government business notice of motion no. 4 (second reading of the Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008 and three related bills).

Question put and passed.

30 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (LUXURY CAR TAX) BILL 2008 AND RELATED BILLS—CONSIDERATION

The Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry), at the request of the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (Senator Stephens) and pursuant to notice, moved government business notice of motion no. 4—That the Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008, A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008, A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008 and A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008, be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

At 6.50 pm: Debate was interrupted while the Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce) was speaking.

31 DEFENCE AMENDMENT (PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF OVERSEAS SERVICE) BILL 2008 [NO. 2]—DOCUMENT

Senator Ludlam, by leave, tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008 [No. 2].

32 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION

The government documents tabled earlier today (*see entry no. 2*) and general business order of the day no. 15 relating to government documents were called on but no motion was moved.

33 ADJOURNMENT

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Humphries) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 7.22 pm till Thursday, 18 September 2008 at 9.30 am.

34 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senators Heffernan, O'Brien* and Wong* (* on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate