

**Senate Standing Committee
for the
Scrutiny of Bills**



Alert Digest

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Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills

Members of the Committee

Senator the Hon C Ellison (Chair)

Senator M Bishop (Deputy Chair)

Senator D Cameron

Senator J Collins

Senator R Siewert

Senator the Hon J Troeth

Terms of Reference

Extract from **Standing Order 24**

- (1) (a) At the commencement of each Parliament, a Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills shall be appointed to report, in respect of the clauses of bills introduced into the Senate, and in respect of Acts of the Parliament, whether such bills or Acts, by express words or otherwise:
- (i) trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties;
 - (ii) make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined administrative powers;
 - (iii) make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon non-reviewable decisions;
 - (iv) inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or
 - (v) insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny.
- (b) The committee, for the purpose of reporting upon the clauses of a bill when the bill has been introduced into the Senate, may consider any proposed law or other document or information available to it, notwithstanding that such proposed law, document or information has not been presented to the Senate.

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- **The Committee has commented on these bills**

This Digest is circulated to all Honourable Senators.
Any Senator who wishes to draw matters to the attention of the Committee under its terms of reference is invited to do so.

Archives Amendment Bill 2008

Introduced into the Senate on 17 September 2008

Portfolio: Cabinet Secretary

Background

This bill amends the *Archives Act 1983* to implement certain recommendations in the Australian Law Reform Commission's Report No. 85, *Australia's Federal Record: A Review of the Archives Act 1983*, and makes consequential amendments to the *Copyright Act 1968*, the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*. The bill inserts an objects clause into the *Archives Act 1983*, and provides for records to remain in the care of the Archives while in the custody of persons other than the Archives.

The bill also contains application and transitional provisions.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Bill 2008

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 18 September 2008
Portfolio: Health and Ageing

Background

This bill establishes the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority to provide the legislative framework to implement measures that seek to achieve a significant and lasting increase in the number of organ and tissue donations and transplantations in Australia. The bill:

- details the functions of the Authority;
- provides for the appointment of members to the Authority and for the appointment, remuneration, and termination of the CEO;
- requires the development of a four-year strategic plan to provide a nationally-consistent, coordinated system of organ and tissue donation;
- specifies the functions of the CEO; and
- provides for the appointment of staff under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

The bill also establishes the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Advisory Council, to advise the CEO about organ or tissue donation and transplantation matters, and allows the CEO to establish expert advisory committees to provide advice.

The bill also allows the CEO to provide grants of financial assistance to the States and Territories and to a person other than a State or Territory.

Wide discretion Subclause 24(1)

Subclause 24(1) would authorise the CEO of the Authority to delegate ‘any or all of the CEO’s functions and powers to a person who is a member of the Staff of the Authority.’ Since clause 25 provides that the staff of the Authority is simply to be ‘persons engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999*’, the Committee notes that subclause 24(1) gives the CEO a very wide discretion in deciding to whom to delegate functions or powers.

The Committee has consistently drawn attention to legislation that allows delegations to a relatively large class of persons, with little or no specificity as to their qualifications or attributes. Generally, the Committee prefers to see a limit set either on the sorts of powers that might be delegated, or on the categories of people to whom those powers might be delegated. The Committee’s preference is that delegates be confined to the holders of nominated offices or to members of the Senior Executive Service.

Where broad delegations are made, the Committee considers that an explanation of why these are considered necessary should be included in the explanatory memorandum. In this case, the Committee notes that the explanatory memorandum provides no explanation as to why the CEO requires such a broad power of delegation. The Committee **seeks the Minister’s advice** about the reason for this broad power of delegation and whether it might be limited in some way.

Pending the Minister’s advice, the Committee draws Senators’ attention to the provision, as it may be considered to make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined administrative powers, in breach of principle 1(a)(ii) of the Committee’s terms of reference.

Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2008

Introduced into the Senate on 17 September 2008

Portfolio: Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Background

This bill amends the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* in relation to the introduction of Australia's first digital radio services. The bill:

- extends the deadline for the commencement of digital radio services in the mainland state capital cities by six months, to 1 July 2009;
- removes the requirement for digital radio services to commence in Hobart by the extended deadline of 1 July 2009; and
- retains an option for community radio stations to take up shares in the joint venture companies managing the transmission of digital radio services.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008 [No. 2]

Introduced into the Senate on 17 September 2008

By Senator Ludlam

Background

This bill amends the *Defence Act 1903* to ensure that, as far as is constitutionally and practically possible, Australian Defence Force personnel are not sent overseas to engage in warlike actions without the approval of both Houses of the Parliament.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Further 2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 18 September 2008

Portfolio: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Background

This bill amends the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* and the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999* to:

- better align the maternity immunisation allowance with the National Immunisation Program by paying the allowance in two payments for children who meet the 18 month and four year-old immunisation requirements;
- extend eligibility for the maternity immunisation allowance to children adopted from outside Australia who enter Australia before turning 16 and who are immunised appropriately after arrival; and
- modify the rules for determining entitlement to the maternity immunisation allowance.

The bill also amends the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* to:

- cease eligibility for partner service pension for those partners who are separated but not divorced from their veteran spouse, and who have not reached age pension age; and
- set the eligible age at 50 years for partner service pension for the partner of a veteran who is in receipt of the equivalent of, or less than, special rate, but above general rate, disability pension, or who has at least 80 impairment points under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

The bill also amends the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989* and the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988* to address anomalies in relation to the child support formula reforms that commenced on 1 July 2008.

The bill also contains application, saving and transitional provisions.

Retrospective application

Schedule 1, item 12

Schedule 1 to this bill inserts amendments relating to the maternity immunisation allowance, and item 12 provides that those amendments apply both to children born in Australia before the commencement of Schedule 1, and to children born overseas who are adopted and brought to Australia on or after 1 July 2006. The item, therefore, gives some retrospective application to the amendments in Schedule 1.

As a matter of practice, the Committee draws attention to any bill which seeks to have retrospective impact and will comment adversely where such a bill has a detrimental effect on people. In respect of this provision, the Committee notes that the retrospectivity is beneficial to the recipients of the immunisation allowance.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Retrospective application

Schedule 3, part 1, item 11 and subitem 11(3)

Part 1 of Schedule 3 to this bill inserts amendments relating to the assessment of a parent's percentage of care, for the purpose of assessing liability to child support. Item 11 provides that the amendments apply in relation to changes in the percentage of care that occur on or after 1 July 2008. These amendments, therefore, appear to be somewhat retrospective.

The Committee notes, however, that subitem 11(3) of the bill provides that where a change in the percentage of care occurs before the commencement of this item and, as a result of that change, an assessment is amended under

section 75 of the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*, the amendment cannot take effect earlier than the commencement of the item. The Committee is of the view that there is, therefore, no retrospective application in this case and, as such, the provision does not fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Retrospective application Schedule 3, part 2, items 12 and 13

Item 12 in part 2 of Schedule 3 to this bill inserts amendments relating to the publication of reasons for decisions of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. Item 13 in part 2 of Schedule 3 provides that the amendment made by item 12 applies to decisions of the Tribunal made 'before, on or after the commencement' of that item. The amendment may, therefore, apply retrospectively.

As a matter of practice, the Committee draws attention to any bill that seeks to have retrospective impact and will comment adversely where such a bill has a detrimental effect on people. In this instance, the Committee notes from the explanatory memorandum (page 23) that there will be no adverse effect from this retrospective application.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Retrospective application Schedule 3, part 6, items 49 and 54

Part 6 of Schedule 3 to this bill inserts amendments relating to liabilities to child support and similar matters made overseas and, in general, provides that any overseas liabilities are to be taken into account in determining a parent's liabilities under the Australian legislation. Item 49 provides that the

amendments made by items 32 to 39 and 41 to 48 apply in relation to overseas assessments to child support made ‘before, on or after the commencement’ of the relevant provisions. Similarly, item 54 provides that the amendments made by items 51 to 53 apply to overseas maintenance liabilities arising ‘before, on or after the commencement’ of those items.

As a matter of practice, the Committee draws attention to any bill that seeks to have retrospective impact and will comment adversely where such a bill has a detrimental effect on people. In this instance, the Committee notes that the effect of these amendments is beneficial to a person being assessed for child support in this country.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on these provisions.

Financial Transaction Reports Amendment (Transitional Arrangements) Bill 2008

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 18 September 2008
Portfolio: Home Affairs

Background

This bill makes transitional amendments to the *Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988* (FTR Act) to:

- authorise cash dealers to continue reporting suspicious transactions, international funds transfer instructions, and significant cash transactions to the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) under the FTR Act until 11 March 2010, or until they become compliant with new counter-part provisions under the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* (AML/CTF Act), whichever comes first;
- authorise solicitors, solicitor corporations and partnerships of solicitors to continue to provide AUSTRAC with cash transaction reports under the FTR Act until 11 March 2010, or until they become compliant with new counter-part provisions under the AML/CTF Act, whichever comes first; and
- authorise certain cash dealers to enter transactions into their exemption register up until the end of 11 March 2010.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 17 September 2008

Portfolio: Treasury

Background

This bill amends the *International Tax Agreements Act 1953* to give the force of law in Australia to a *Protocol amending the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income*. The Protocol was signed in South Africa on 31 March 2008.

The Protocol updates the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income*, with a view to assisting trade and investment flows between Australia and South Africa.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Restoring Territory Rights (Voluntary Euthanasia Legislation) Bill 2008

Introduced into the Senate on 17 September 2008

By Senator Bob Brown

Background

This bill repeals the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* and amends the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*, the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* and the *Norfolk Island Act 1979* to restore legislative powers to the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory, and Norfolk Island, including the right to legislate for voluntary euthanasia.

Explanatory memorandum

The Committee notes that this bill, introduced as a private Senator's bill, was accompanied only by a second reading speech and was introduced without an explanatory memorandum. The consideration of bills by the Committee and by the Parliament is assisted if they are accompanied by an explanation of the intent and operation of the proposed amendments, preferably in the form of an explanatory memorandum. The Committee recognises, of course, that private Senators and Members do not generally have access to the resources of departments and agencies to assist in the development of such documents. In this context, the Committee notes that the Department of the Senate has developed a set of guidelines to assist Senators with the preparation of private bills and explanatory material, *Preparing Private Senator's Bills, Explanatory Memoranda and Second Reading Speeches. A Guide for Senators*. This guide, which is available from the Clerk Assistant (Procedure) and on the Senate's intranet site, may assist Senators and Members in preparing explanatory memoranda.

In this case, the Committee notes that the second reading speech provides some explanation of the intent and operation of the proposed amendments.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this bill.

COMMENTARY ON AMENDMENTS TO BILLS

Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008

On 18 September 2008, the House of Representatives agreed to ninety-three amendments to this bill, a number of which fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

Determination of important matters by regulation **Amendment No. 18 - proposed section 15F**

Amendment No. 18 replaces proposed section 15F of this bill, which was to be inserted by item 109 of Schedule 1, with a revised version. The amended proposed section 15F provides that criteria for determining whether there is a 'significant risk' of one person's operations having a 'significant adverse impact' on another person's operations, under specified sections of the bill, are to be included in regulations.

The Committee draws attention to provisions which may be considered to inappropriately delegate legislative powers of a kind that ought to be exercised by Parliament alone. In this instance, the Committee notes that the criteria to determine whether there is a 'significant risk' of one person's operations having a 'significant adverse impact' on another person's operations is fundamental to the operation of various provisions of this bill.

The Committee notes from the supplementary explanatory memorandum that 'the regulation-making power is expressed in broad terms, to enable the provision of different kinds of means, or combinations of means, of arriving at an answer.' Nevertheless, the Committee considers that this provision may inappropriately delegate legislative powers and **seeks the Minister's advice** whether these criteria might be included in the primary legislation rather than in regulations.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to delegate legislative powers inappropriately, in breach of principle 1(a)(iv) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Strict liability

Amendment No. 63 - proposed new subsection 249CZE(15)

Amendment No. 63, inserts a new subsection 249CZE(15) in the *Offshore Petroleum Act 2006*, which creates a new strict liability offence if a person, who is subject to a requirement under subsection 249CZE(12) to apply for a site closing certificate, omits to do an act and the omission breaches the requirement.

The Committee will generally draw to Senators' attention provisions that create strict liability offences. Where a bill creates such an offence, the Committee considers that the reason for its imposition should be set out in the explanatory memorandum which accompanies the bill. In this instance, the Committee notes from the supplementary explanatory memorandum that 'the application for a site closing certificate and the reports and other documents that accompany it will be the responsible Commonwealth Minister's major source of information about the cessation of injection operations and about the remedial and precautionary work program that needs to be carried out...' It is, therefore, essential that this information is provided, but there is no commercial benefit from carrying out the site-closing work program. As such, the explanatory memorandum argues, strict liability is 'necessary in order to ensure the integrity of the regulatory regime.'

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Abrogation of the privilege against self-incrimination

Amendment No. 87 - proposed new section 435Q

Proposed new section 435Q of the *Offshore Petroleum Act 2006*, to be inserted by amendment No. 87, would abrogate the privilege against self-incrimination for a person required to give information or produce a document under proposed new section 435N. At common law, people can decline to answer questions on the grounds that their replies might tend to incriminate them. Legislation which interferes with this common law privilege trespasses on personal rights and liberties.

The Committee does not see this privilege as absolute, however, recognising that the public benefit in obtaining information may outweigh the harm to civil rights. One of the factors the Committee considers is the subsequent use that may be made of any incriminating disclosures. In this case, the Committee notes that proposed new subsection 435Q(2) limits the circumstances in which information or documents so provided are admissible in evidence in proceedings against the affected person. The Committee accepts that this provision strikes a reasonable balance between the competing interests of obtaining information and protecting individual rights.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2008

On 16 September 2008, the Senate agreed to one amendment to this bill, which does not fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

PROVISIONS OF BILLS WHICH IMPOSE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS FOR A FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

The Committee's *Eighth Report of 1998* dealt with the appropriate basis for penalty provisions for offences involving the giving or withholding of information. In that Report, the Committee recommended that the Attorney-General develop more detailed criteria to ensure that the penalties imposed for such offences were 'more consistent, more appropriate, and make greater use of a wider range of non-custodial penalties'. The Committee also recommended that such criteria be made available to Ministers, drafters and to the Parliament.

The Government responded to that Report on 14 December 1998. In that response, the Minister for Justice referred to the ongoing development of the Commonwealth *Criminal Code*, which would include rationalising penalty provisions for 'administration of justice offences'. The Minister undertook to provide further information when the review of penalty levels and applicable principles had taken place.

For information, the following Table sets out penalties for 'information-related' offences in the legislation covered in this *Digest*. The Committee notes that imprisonment is still prescribed as a penalty for some such offences.

TABLE

Bill/Act	Section/Subsection	Offence	Penalty
<i>Offshore Petroleum Act 2006</i>	Subsection 435N(4)	Failure to produce information or documents	100 penalty units

SCRUTINY OF STANDING APPROPRIATIONS

The Committee has determined that, as part of its standard procedures for reporting on bills, it should draw senators' attention to the presence in bills of standing appropriations. It will do so under provisions 1(a)(iv) and (v) of its terms of reference, which require the Committee to report on whether bills:

- (iv) inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or
- (v) insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny.

Further details of the Committee's approach to scrutiny of standing appropriations are set out in the Committee's *Fourteenth Report of 2005*. The following is a list of the bills containing standing appropriations that have been introduced since the beginning of the 42nd Parliament.

Bills introduced with standing appropriation clauses – 42nd Parliament

*Indicates passed by Senate	Bills and Clauses
*	Commonwealth Securities and Investment Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 10, subsection 5BA(7)
*	Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme Bill 2008 — Clause 84
*	Dental Benefits Bill 2008 — Clause 65
*	Farm Household Support Amendment (Additional Drought Assistance Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 29.
*	Fisheries Legislation Amendment (New Governance Arrangements for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Other Matters) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 79, section 94B (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)
	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 5, item 141, section 65A.
	Protection of the Sea Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 20, section 46N.
	Safe Work Australia Bill 2008 — clause 64 (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)
*	Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (International Agreements and Other Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 1
*	Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 — clause 58 (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)

Other relevant appropriation clauses

*Indicates passed by Senate	Bills and Clauses
*	Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments and Other Budget Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 2, items 1 and 2, and Schedule 4, item 1: special appropriation clauses – for a finite period of time (ie. for circumstances arising in a particular financial year).

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF BILLS

INDEX OF BILLS COMMENTED ON AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES SOUGHT/RECEIVED - 2007/2008

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills dealt with in 2007							
Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Northern Territory National Emergency Response and Other Measures Bill 2007	9(13.8.07)	7.8.07	8.8.07	Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	13.8.07 13.9.07	16.8.07 17.10.07	9(12.9.07) 1(12.3.08)
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Discretionary Mutual Funds and Direct Offshore Foreign Insurers) Bill 2007	8(8.8.07)	21.6.07	13.9.07	Treasurer	9.8.07	20.9.07	1(12.3.08)
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Simplifying Regulation and Review) Bill 2007	8(8.8.07)	21.6.07	13.9.07	Treasurer	9.8.07	19.9.07	1(12.3.08)
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Bill 2007	11(12.9.07)	15.8.07	18.9.07	Environment and Water Resources	13.9.07	2.10.07	1(12.3.08)
<i>Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007</i>	9(13.8.07)	7.8.07	8.8.07	Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	13.8.07 13.9.07	16.8.07 17.10.07	9(12.9.07) 1(12.3.08)
<i>Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Payment Reform) Act 2007</i>	9(13.8.07)	7.8.07	8.8.07	Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	13.8.07 13.9.07	16.8.07 17.10.07	9(12.9.07) 1(12.3.08)
<i>Water Act 2007</i>	10(15.8.07)	8.8.07	15.8.07	Environment and Water Resources	16.8.07	23.11.07	1(12.3.08)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills introduced 2008							
<i>Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Act 2008</i>	1(12.3.08)	13.2.08	14.2.08	Health and Ageing	13.3.08	4.8.08	7(27.8.08)
<i>Australian Crime Commission Amendment Act 2007</i>	3(14.5.08)	19.9.07	18.9.07	Home Affairs	15.5.08	20.6.08	6(25.6.08)
Australian Energy Market Amendment (Minor Amendments) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	20.3.08	23.6.08	Resources, Energy and Tourism	15.5.08	28.5.08	4(4.6.08)
Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (1999 Montreal Convention and Other Measures) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	20.3.08	16.6.08	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	15.5.08	19.6.08	6(25.6.08)
Communications Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2008	2(19.3.08)	17.3.08	12.3.08	Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy	20.3.08	13.5.08	3(14.5.08)
Customs Amendment (Strengthening Border Controls) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	20.3.08	16.6.08	Home Affairs	15.5.08	13.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Customs Legislation Amendment (Modernising) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	20.3.08	16.6.08	Home Affairs	15.5.08	13.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Dental Benefits Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)	29.5.08	18.6.08	Health and Ageing	5.6.08	23.6.08	6(25.6.08)
Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008	2(19.3.08)		13.3.08	Senator Fielding	20.3.08		
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Control of Power Station Emissions) Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)		19.6.08	Senator Allison	26.6.08		

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)	15.5.08	16.6.08	Treasury	5.6.08	17.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Excise Tariff Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 Amendment	5(18.6.08)	15.5.08	16.6.08	Treasury	19.6.08	28.8.08	8(3.9.08)
Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)	29.5.08	16.6.08	Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	5.6.08	18.6.08	6(25.6.08)
Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008	7(27.8.08)	25.6.08	1.9.08	Attorney-General	28.8.08	5.9.08	9(17.9.08)
Farm Household Support Amendment (Additional Drought Assistance Measures) Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)	29.5.08	16.6.08	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	5.6.08	17.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Review of Prudential Decisions) Bill 2008	1(12.3.08)	11.3.08	13.2.08	Treasury	13.3.08	18.3.08	2(19.3.08)
First Home Saver Accounts Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)	28.5.08	16.6.08	Treasury	5.6.08	16.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Fisheries Legislation Amendment (New Governance Arrangements for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority And Other Matters) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	20.3.08	16.6.08	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	15.5.08	28.5.08	4(4.6.08)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)	18.6.08	27.8.08	Environment, Heritage and the Arts	26.6.08	22.7.08	7(27.8.08)
Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008	1(12.3.08)	21.2.08	3.9.08	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	13.3.08	9.7.08	7(27.8.08)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2008	1(12.3.08)	21.2.08	3.9.08	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	13.3.08	9.7.08	7(27.8.08)
Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Laws Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	17.3.08	3.9.08	Mr Georgiou MP	15.5.08	26.5.08	4(4.6.08)
Infrastructure Australia Bill 2008	1(12.3.08)	21.2.08	18.3.08	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	13.3.08	18.3.08	2(19.3.08)
National Commissioner for Children Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)		18.3.08	Senator Bartlett	15.5.08		
National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)	29.4.08	16.6.08	Treasury	5.6.08	24.6.08	6(25.6.08)
Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)	18.6.08		Resources, Energy and Tourism	25.6.08	1.8.08	7(27.8.08)
Offshore Petroleum (Annual Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)	18.6.08		Resources, Energy and Tourism	25.6.08	1.8.08	7(27.8.08)
Offshore Petroleum (Registration Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)	18.6.08		Resources, Energy and Tourism	25.6.08	1.8.08	7(27.8.08)
Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)	18.6.08		Resources, Energy and Tourism	25.6.08	1.8.08	7(27.8.08)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability For Bunker Oil Pollution Damage) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	20.3.08	16.6.08	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	15.5.08	2.6.08	4(4.6.08)
Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)		15.5.08	Senator Milne	5.6.08	12.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of Grocery prices) Bill 2008	4(4.6.08)		15.5.08	Senator Fielding	5.6.08	5.6.08	5(18.6.08)
Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (International Agreements and Other Measures) Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)	19.3.08	16.6.08	Veterans' Affairs	15.5.08	24.6.08	6(25.6.08)
<i>Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008</i>	1(12.3.08)	13.2.08	17.3.08	Employment and Workplace Relations	13.3.08 20.3.08	18.3.08 22.4.08	2(19.3.08) 3(14.5.08)

