



# Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday 6 February 2001

The Senate met from 2.00pm until 7.31pm

## Legislation

[For full text of bills and other associated documents click here](#)

### **The following bills were introduced in the Senate**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2000

Administrative Review Tribunal Bill 2000

Administrative Review Tribunal (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2000

### **The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported**

Gene Technology Bill 2000—The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to the amendments made by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Bill 2000—The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to various amendments made by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]

### **The following message from the House of Representatives was considered**

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Bill 2000 [2001]—The Senate began consideration of [amendments](#) made by the House of Representatives

### **Notices of motion given to introduce bills**

Customs Tariff Amendment (Petrol Tax Cut) Bill 2001

Excise Tariff Amendment (Petrol Tax Cut) Bill 2001—Notices of motion given by Senator Cook [Private senator's bills]

### **Bills assented to**

[Assent](#) to several bills was reported in the Senate

### **Proclamations**

[Proclamations](#) by the Governor-General were tabled announcing when particular parts of Acts would commence

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

## Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings click here](#) 

[For committee reports click here](#) 

### Estimates

#### *Additional information tabled*

Additional information received by the following committees was tabled:

- Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education Legislation Committee—Additional Estimates 1998-99 (vol. 8), Estimates 1999-2000 (vol 5), Estimates (Supplementary) 1999-2000 (vol. 5), Additional Estimates (supplementary) 1999-2000 (vol. 3), Estimates 2000-01 (vol 5) and Estimates (Supplementary) 2000-01 (vols 6-8)
- Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—Estimates 2000-01 (vols 1-3)
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Estimates 2000-01 (vol. 1)

#### *Corrigendum tabled*

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts tabled a corrigendum to the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio additional estimates statements 2000-01

### Report tabled

- *Disposal of defence property: Artillery Barracks, Fremantle*—Interim Report—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

### Document tabled

- Senate committee reports—Register (2000 supplement)

### Statement

Senator Mason made [a statement](#) relating to the summoning of a witness to appear before the Electoral Matters Joint Committee in relation to its inquiry into the integrity of the electoral roll

### Government responses to committee reports tabled

- Albury-Wodonga Development Amendment Bill 1999—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- Matters arising from the *Company Law Review Act 1998*—Corporations and Securities Joint Committee

### Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—Discharged: Senator McKiernan; Appointed: Senator Gibbs

## Meetings

### *Public meetings*

The Senate agreed that the following public meetings may be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Community Affairs References Committee—6 February 2001 from 5pm
- National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee—7 February 2001 from 11.30am to 1.30pm
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—6 February 2001 from 5.02pm

## Reporting date

The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:

- Administrative Review Tribunal Bill 2000 and a related bill—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—14 February 2001

## Notice of motion given

### *To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting*

Finance and Public Administration References Committee—7 February 2001 from 5.30pm

## Procedural change

The Senate adopted the [recommendations](#) of the Second Report of the Procedure Committee concerning parliamentary secretaries and the supplementary meetings of legislation committees considering estimates

## Motion agreed to

- [Airport Facilities—Kurnell](#)—moved by Senator Brown (without debate)

## Notices of motion

For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click [here](#) 

## Ministerial statement

The Leader of the Government in the Senate informed the Senate of changes in the second Howard Ministry and tabled a document listing members of the Ministry

## Orders for the return of documents

### *Motion agreed to*

The Senate ordered the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources to table [certain documents](#) relating to the design and construction of a new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights (no later than immediately after question time on 8 February 2001)—motion moved by Senator Forshaw

### *Notices of motion given*

- Senator Murray gave notice of a motion requiring that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission table a report on wholesale grocery prices (as soon as practicable after 30 June 2001)
- Senator Stott Despoja gave notice of a motion to require the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources to table certain documents relating to determinations of the Federal Court and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (no later than immediately after question time on 26 February 2001)

### *Statement by Minister*

The Assistant Treasurer made a [statement](#) indicating that the Government would not comply with the [order of the Senate](#) of 4 October 2000 for the production of certain documents concerning taxation. The Senate took note of the statement (motion moved by [Senator Cook](#)).

### *Documents tabled*

Documents relating to GST-related public opinion polling commissioned by government departments from 1 January 1999 to 30 September 2000 for various agencies were tabled (in response to a motion moved by Senator Faulkner on 4 December 2000) [▶](#) [▶](#)

## Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Auditor-General—Reports Nos 22-27](#)
- [Business of the Senate](#)—1 January to 31 December 2000 [a digest of all business considered by the Senate in 2000]
- Centenary of Federation—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- [Government document](#); and Government [documents presented since the last sitting](#) of the Senate
- *Horticultural Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2000*—Declarations
- Independent Auditor—Report—Australian National Audit Office: Results of a performance audit of the planning and resource allocation processes, December 2000
- Questions on notice—Summary for the period 10 November 1998 to 31 December 2000

- Response to a Senate resolution (agreed to 9 October 2000) about reconciliation committees

## Petitions

[5 petitions](#) were received

## Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Urgency debate about petrol prices and the GST
- The President advised the chamber of the deaths of former Senator Mulvihill (on 10 December 2000) and of former member the Hon. John McLeay (on 26 December 2000). The Senate supported [condolence motions](#) moved by the Leader of the Government in the Senate.
- Adjournment debate

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