



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 19 September 2001

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.30pm

Privilege

The Senate agreed to refer to the Committee of Privileges a [matter of privilege](#) concerning an allegation that false or misleading evidence was given before the Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fund, and whether a contempt was committed in relation to the allegation

Days of meeting

The Senate agreed to a motion to [vary the days](#) it will meet in October and November

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2001

Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 2001

Trade Practices Amendment (Telecommunications) Bill 2001

The following bill was considered

States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2001—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced (1 Opposition [request](#) for an amendment moved)

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

[The following bills will now be assented to]

Environmental Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2001—The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment

International Maritime Conventions Legislation Amendment Bill 2001—The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the amendments made by the Senate

Exemptions from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order:

Interactive Gambling Amendment Bill 2001

Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2001

Royal Commissions and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2001

Debate on a motion to exempt the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2001 from the cut-off order was adjourned until 24 September 2001

Notices of motion given

To exempt bills from certain provisions of standing order 111 [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2001

Education, Training and Youth Affairs Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) Bill 2001

Excise Tariff Amendment (Crude Oil) Bill 2001

Health and Other Services (Compensation) Legislation Amendment Bill 2001

Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Bill 2001

Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2001

Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Retirement Assistance for Farmers) Bill 2001

Trade Practices Amendment (Telecommunications) Bill 2001

Bills assented to

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

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

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#) 

Reports tabled

- *Australia's relations with the Middle East*—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2001*—Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
- *New faces, new places—Review of state-specific migration mechanisms*—Migration Joint Committee
- Privileges Committee—100th Report—*Possible unauthorised disclosure of draft report of Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee, dated September 2001*
- *Scrutiny of annual reports—No. 2 of 2001*—Economics Legislation Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 12](#) of 2001 and [12th report](#) of 2001 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 14](#) of 2001 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees] *See also* under Notices of motion to transfer the reference of a bill to another committee, below
- *Taxation Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill 2001*—Economics Legislation Committee

- *The Link between aid and human rights*—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- *Trade Practices Amendment (Telecommunications) Bill 2001*—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee
- *Workplace Relations Amendment (Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2001*—Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education Legislation Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following changes to committee membership:

- Legal and Constitutional References Committee—Senator Mason to replace Senator Payne for the consideration of the provisions of the Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 6) 2001
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Senator Forshaw to replace Senator Mackay for the consideration of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Standards Amendment Bill 2001

Message from the House of Representatives reported

A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising that Mr Pearce would replace Mr A P Thompson on the Treaties Joint Committee

New inquiry

The Senate agreed to refer the following matter to a committee:

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—The role of the Federal government in the sale of Ansett Australia to Air New Zealand and the events leading up to, and the collapse of, the Ansett group of companies—to report by 28 March 2002

Proposed reference

The Senate began consideration of a motion moved by Senator Brown that the Regional Forests Agreements Bill 2001 and related matters be referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee for report by 1 April 2002—debate will continue

*See the **Reports tabled** section (Selection of Bills Committee Report) for details of bills referred to committees*

Reporting dates

The Senate agreed to the following extensions of time for committees to report:

- Charter of Public Honesty Bill 2000 and three related bills—Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—28 February 2002
- Framework for the market supervision of Australia's stock exchanges—Economics References Committee—27 September 2001
- Higher education—Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education References Committee—27 September 2001

Notices of motion given

To endorse a committee's findings

- Privileges Committee–100th Report–*Possible unauthorised disclosure of draft report of Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee*, dated September 2001–moved by Senator Ray

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–20 September 2001 from 7 pm

To refer the following bills to a committee

- Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Bill 2001, Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2001, Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2001–Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 22 October 2001

To transfer the reference of a bill to another committee

- To refer the Regional Forests Agreements Bill 2001 to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee instead of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Delegated legislation

[For a complete list of notices of motion to disallow \(and outcomes\) click here ►](#)

Notice of motion given

A notice of motion was given to disallow the Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Services Table) Amendment Regulations 2001 (No. 4), as contained in Statutory Rules 2001 No. 157 and made under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*—moved by Senator Evans

See the **Documents** section for details of instruments tabled

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to an urgency motion about protecting the jobs of the employees of Ansett Australia and regional air services—moved by Senator O'Brien

Motion defeated

A motion moved by Senator Harris relating to totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) benefits was defeated

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services to table certain reports, correspondence and communications relating to the application by Air New Zealand to the Australian Government for approval to take 100 percent ownership of Ansett Airlines, no later than 5pm on 20 September 2001

Notices of motion given

- Senator Bartlett gave a [notice of motion](#) to require the Minister for the Environment and Heritage to table all documents held by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or Environment Australia in relation to certain matters, no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 26 September 2001
- Senator Bartlett gave a [notice of motion](#) to require the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources to table all documents held by the Australian Geographical Survey Organisation or the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in relation to certain matters, no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 26 September 2001
- Senator O'Brien gave a [notice of motion](#) to require the Minister representing the Prime Minister to table all correspondence and other communications, including emails and briefing notes, relating to the application by Air New Zealand to the Australian Government for approval to take 100 percent ownership of Ansett Airlines, no later than 5pm on 24 September 2001

Documents tabled

- Departmental and agency contracts—Letters of Advice—Department of Industry Science and Resources, Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, and Productivity Commission (*order agreed to 20 June 2001*)
- Statements of compliance relating to indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 January to 30 June 2001 (*order agreed to 30 May 1996, as amended 3 December 1998*) for [various agencies](#) were tabled

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—Report No. 10 of 2001-2002—Assurance and control assessment audit—Management of bank accounts by agencies
- Auditor-General—Report No. 11 of 2001-2002—Performance audit—Administration of the Federation Fund programme
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- [Government document](#)
- *Odgers' Australian Senate Practice*, 10th (Centenary of Federation) edition, 2001
- Slovak Republic, the Republic of Croatia and the Czech Republic—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation, 7 to 20 April 2001

Petitions

No petitions were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Adjournment debate

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