



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 5 February 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.35pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 6) 2002
- Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

The following bill was considered

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—second reading debate continued

No bills were passed

The following message from the House of Representatives was reported

- Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill 2002—The message reported that the House of Representatives had insisted on disagreeing to amendments nos 18, 22, 24, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 47, 49, 50, 54, 61, 63 to 65 and 74 to 77 made and insisted on by the Senate [The Senate will consider the message from the House on a future sitting day]

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

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 by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances to disallow the Bankruptcy Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 255 and made under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*–15 sitting days after 5 February 2003

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

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#)

Reports tabled

- Privileges Committee–111th Report–Person referred to in the Senate (Mr Bob Moses, on behalf of board and management of National Stem Cell Centre)[report adopted and response as recommended by the committee was incorporated in [Hansard](#)]
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee–[Alert Digest](#) No. 1 of 2003 and [1st report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee–[Report No. 1](#) of 2003 (tabled, amended and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Government responses to committee reports tabled

- A ‘reasonable and secure’ retirement? The benefit design of Commonwealth public sector and defence force unfunded superannuation funds and schemes–Superannuation and Financial Services Select Committee
- Australian Crime Commission Establishment Bill 2002–National Crime Authority Joint Committee
- Fair prices and Better Access for All (Petroleum) Bill 1999 and the practice of multi-site franchising by oil companies–Economics References Committee

Documents tabled

- Consolidated register of Senate committee reports 1970–2001–2002 Supplement
- Letter from the Acting Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr Slipper) in response to the [resolution](#) of the Senate of 10 December 2002 concerning the findings of the Certain Maritime Incident Select Committee. The Senate took note of the document.
- Work of Committees–1 January to 31 December 2002

Statement by Committee Chair

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Privileges made a [statement](#) relating to the Committee’s 105th report, tabled on 26 June 2002. The Senate took note of the statement.

Membership

The Senate agreed to [certain changes](#) to committee membership

Notices of motion given

To extend reporting deadlines

- Progress towards national reconciliation—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—17 June 2003
- Refusal of the Government to respond to the order of the Senate of 21 August 2002 for the production of documents relating to financial information concerning higher education institutions—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—15 May 2003

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

Ministerial statement on Iraq

The Senate further debated a motion to take note of [the statement](#) made by the Minister for Defence on 4 February 2003 about the Government's policy on Iraq. The Senate agreed to [an amendment](#) to the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition which expressed a censure of the Government and no confidence in the Prime Minister's handling of the matter.

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions (without debate) about:

- [Albert Namatjira](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [David Gulpili](#)—Australian Film Institute Best Actor award—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Death of Prince of Wales Midpul](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Waterfall train disaster](#)—moved by Senator Forshaw

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

The Senate ordered the tabling of the following documents:

- [The submission](#) or submissions made by the Department of Defence to the Environment Impact Assessment for a National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia (no later than 4.00pm on 6 February 2003)—moved by Senator Allison
- [All documents](#) relating to the records and communications between the Department of Defence and the Department of Education, Science and Training concerning the Government's consideration of a National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia (no later than 4.00pm on 3 March 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

Statements

- The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer made [a statement](#) about the order for the production of documents about an ethanol excise and production subsidy (order agreed to by the Senate on [16 October 2002](#)). The Parliamentary Secretary indicated the order would be complied with as soon as possible.
- The Minister for Justice and Customs made [a statement](#) about the order for the production of documents about genetically-modified food (order agreed to by the Senate on [12 December 2002](#)). The Minister indicated the order would be complied with as soon as possible.

Documents tabled

- The Minister for Justice and Customs tabled [certain material](#) provided to the Government by the Chief Scientist and the CRC committee regarding funding of certain energy bodies and other matters (in response to a motion moved by Senator Brown on [12 December 2002](#)). The Minister also made [a statement](#) about the documents tabled.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General–Report [Nos 23 to 27](#) of 2002-03–Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- Business of the Senate–1 January to 31 December 2002 [a digest of all business considered by the Senate in the calendar year 2002]
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- *Egg Industry Service Provision Act 2002*–Declaration of industry services body, dated 2 January 2003
- [Government documents](#)
- [Government documents](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- Odgers' Australian Senate Practice 10th edition Supplement–Updates to 31 December 2002
- Questions on notice–Summary for the period 12 February to 31 December 2002
- Responses to Senate resolutions about:
 - [Photovoltaic energy](#) (agreed to 9 December 2002)
 - [Tobacco control](#) (agreed to 2 December 2002)

Petitions

[3 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- The President made [a statement](#) about changes to security arrangements for Parliament House and precincts
- Government documents were discussed

- Adjournment debate

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