



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 5 March 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.52pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Protecting the Great Barrier Reef from Oil Drilling and Exploration) Amendment Bill 2003 [No.2] [Private senators' bill]
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Secret Ballots for Protected Action) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

The following bills were considered

Second reading debate continued on the following bills

- ❑ Australian Heritage Council Bill 2002
- ❑ Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2002
- ❑ Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002

The following bills were passed

Without amendments

[These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Migration Legislation Amendment (Contributory Parents Migration Scheme) Bill 2002
- ❑ Migration (Visa Application) Charge Amendment Bill 2002

The following message from the House of Representatives was reported

- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate. The Senate agreed to insist on its amendments. [The House will now consider the Senate's response. This bill meets the requirements for a simultaneous dissolution of both houses under [s. 57](#) of the Constitution]

Notices of motion given to introduce bills

- ❑ Health Legislation Amendment (Private Health Insurance Reform) Bill 2003—Notice of motion given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

- ❑ Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003—Notice of motion given by Senator Conroy [Private senator's bill]

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](#)

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

Committees

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

For committee reports [click here](#)

Reports tabled

- ❑ Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—394th Report—Review of Australia's quarantine function
- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest](#) No. 2 of 2003 and [2nd report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds].
- ❑ Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 2 of 2003](#) (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

Document tabled

- ❑ Education of students with disabilities—Corrigendum—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Meetings

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

- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—6 March 2003 from 4pm—to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 2002

Notices of motion given

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- ❑ Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Joint Committee—18 March 2003 from 8pm

To extend reporting deadlines

- ❑ Poverty and financial hardship—Community Affairs References Committee—18 September 2003
- ❑ Recruitment and training in the Australian Public Service—Finance and Public Administration References Committee—26 June 2003

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

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- ❑ [Australian Defence Force personnel](#)—Same-sex partners—moved by Senator Greig
- ❑ [Blue whales](#)—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Eileen Kampakuta Brown](#)—moved by Senator Allison
- ❑ [Hawke Labor Government](#)—20th election anniversary—moved by Senator Cook
- ❑ [World Heritage Convention](#)—Changes to operational guidelines—moved by Senator Brown

Motions defeated

The Senate defeated motions without debate about:

- ❑ [North East New South Wales forest protection](#)—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Question Time](#)—Allocation of questions—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [West Papua](#)—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [West Papua conference](#)—moved by Senator Brown

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](#) that the written advice provided by the Department of Defence to the Department of Education, Science and Training concerning the defence-related issues in connection with the National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia be tabled (no later than 4pm on 6 March 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

Statements of compliance for the Department of Education, Science and Training was tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order [agreed to](#) and [amended](#)]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General—[Reports Nos 31 and 32](#) of 2002-03
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)

- Responses to Senate resolutions about:
 - [Iraq](#)—Use of nuclear weapons (agreed to [6 February 2003](#))
 - [Photovoltaic energy](#) (agreed to [9 December 2002](#))
 - [Swimming Australia's new member protection policy](#) (agreed to [11 December 2002](#))

Petitions

[A petition](#) was received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Matter of public importance discussion about higher education in Australia
- Government documents were discussed
- Adjournment debate

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