



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 26 March 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 10.44pm

Change in sitting hours

The Senate agreed to a variation in [sitting hours](#) and routine of business for 27 March 2003

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill 2002
- Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Corporations (Review Fees) Bill 2002
- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003
- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Disability Reform) Bill (No. 2) 2002 [No. 2]
- Health Insurance Amendment (Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Oncology and Other Measures) Bill 2002
- Industry, Tourism and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- National Blood Authority Bill 2002

The following bill was considered

- Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced—3 Australian Democrat [amendments agreed to](#) and 2 Opposition amendments to be determined

The following bills were passed

Without amendments

[These bills will now be assented to]

- Medical Indemnity (Prudential Supervision and Product Standards) Bill 2002
- Medical Indemnity (Prudential Supervision and Product Standards) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002

With amendments

- ❑ Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002–6 National Party [amendments agreed to](#) [The House of Representatives agreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The bill will now be assented to.]
- ❑ Transport Safety Investigation (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002–2 National Party (amended by 2 Australian Democrat) [amendments agreed to](#) [The House of Representatives agreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The bill will now be assented to.]

The following message from the House of Representatives was considered

- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2002 [No. 2]–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to one and disagreed to five [amendments made by the Senate](#). The Senate agreed not to insist on the five amendments disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

Notices of motion given to introduce bills

- ❑ Defence Amendment (Parliamentary approval for Australian involvement in overseas conflicts) Bill 2003–by Senators Bartlett and Stott Despoja [Private senators' bill]
- ❑ Health and Ageing Legislation Amendment Bill 2003–by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer
- ❑ Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003–by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

*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

- ❑ Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 and 2 related bills–Economics Legislation Committee
- ❑ Proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Bureau of Meteorology, 700 Collins Street, Docklands, Victoria–Public Works Joint Committee
- ❑ Review of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission–Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee
- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee–[Alert Digest](#) No. 4 of 2003 and 3rd [report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- ❑ Selection of Bills Committee–[Report](#) No. 4 of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee

Membership

The Senate appointed Senator Kirk as a participating member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for the committee's inquiry into the performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002

New inquiries

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:

- Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003 and a related bill—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—27 March 2003
- Designs Bill 2002 and a related bill—Economics Legislation Committee—13 May 2003

Notice of motion given to refer a matter to a committee

The circumstances surrounding the application, approval and expenditure of funding under the Dairy Regional Assistance Program for the construction of a new building and the installation of additional machinery at the Moruya Steel Profiling Plant in New South Wales in the 2001-02 financial year—Finance and Public Administration References Committee—to report by 30 June 2003—by [Senator O'Brien](#)

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- [Hand of Peace Exchange](#)—Iraqi children—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- [Iraq](#)—Australian Defence Force Personnel—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 noted that the government had not responded to the order of the Senate concerning the government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy ([agreed to 16 October 2002](#)) and [agreed](#) to call on the government to comply with the order (no later than 5pm on 27 March 2003)

Statement by Minister

The Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer made a [statement](#) relating to the order of the Senate of [25 March 2003](#) for the production of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Minister indicated that it was not in the public interest for the government to comply with the order. The Senate took note of the statement.

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order [agreed to](#) and [amended](#)]

Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet

Statements of compliance for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Dairy Adjustment Authority were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order [agreed to](#) and [amended](#)]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General–Audit report No. 35 of 2002-03–Performance audit–Fraud control arrangements in the Australian Customs Service
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ Royal Commission–Building and Construction Industry–Final report by the Royal Commissioner the Honourable TRH Cole, RFD, QC, and ministerial statement by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, 26 March 2003

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
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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