



Senate Daily Summary

Monday 27 October 2003

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.28pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Higher Education Support Bill 2003
- Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Telecommunications Interception and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

The following bill was considered

- Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003—second reading debate began

No bills were passed

The following messages from the House of Representatives were considered

- Superannuation Government (Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Bill 2003—The [message](#) reported that the House of Representatives agreed to amendments nos 1 to 4, 8 to 11, and 13 to 15 made by the Senate, and disagreed to amendments nos 5 to 7 and 12. The Senate [resolved](#) not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]
- Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—The [message](#) reported that the House of Representatives agreed to amendments nos 7 and 12 made by the Senate, and disagreed to [amendments](#) nos 1 to 6 and 8 to 11. The Senate resolved not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]
- Superannuation (Surcharge Rate Reduction) Amendment Bill 2003—The [message](#) reported that the House of Representatives agreed to amendments nos 1 to 26 and 28 to 32, and disagreed to [amendment](#) no. 27 made by the Senate. The Senate [resolved](#) not to insist on the amendment disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

Notices of motion given

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

- [Various bills](#)

Bills assented to

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

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](#)

Report tabled

- Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–Senator Bishop appointed as participating member

New inquiry

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiry:

- Draft regulations relating to the Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003, the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Regulations 2003 (draft), the Income Tax Amendment Regulations 2003 (draft) and the Retirement Savings Accounts Amendment Regulations 2003 (draft)–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 3 December 2003

Reporting dates

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

- Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 30 October 2003
- Spam Bill 2003 and a related bill–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee–to report by 29 October 2003
- Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003 and associated regulations–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 3 December 2003

Notices of motion given

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Economics References Committee–30 October 2003 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm–Whether the *Trade Practices Act 1974* adequately protects small business

To extend a reporting deadline

- ❑ State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2002]—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 1 March 2004

To refer matters to committees

- ❑ [Certain matters](#) arising from the joint meeting of the Houses on 23 October 2003—Committee of Privileges—to report by 3 December 2003—notice given by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Certain matters](#) arising from the joint meeting of the Houses on 24 October 2003—Committee of Privileges—to report by 3 December 2003—notice given by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Procedures for joint meetings](#) of the Houses for the purpose of addresses by foreign visitors—Procedure Committee—to report by the first sitting day in February 2004—notice given by Senator Brown

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to [a motion](#) about the proliferation of nuclear weapons—moved by Senator Bartlett

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Notices of motion given

Senator Carr gave a notice of motion to require the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training to table the regional impact statement prepared by the Department of Education, Science and Training, in support, explanation and justification of the higher education policy package, referred to at the hearing of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee on 17 October 2003 (no later than 29 October 2003)

Senator Harradine gave a [notice of motion](#) to require the Leader of the Government to table two certain expert reports relating to the use of human embryos for research (no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 29 October 2003)

Statement by Minister

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads made a statement about the order for production of documents ([agreed](#) to 16 October 2003) requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage to table any assessment made since 1996 in preparation for, or consideration of, a world heritage nomination for the Sydney Opera House (no later than 3 pm on 27 October 2003). [The Minister indicated](#) that the government expected to comply with the order by 30 October 2003.

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet

Statements of compliance for [two agencies](#) 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]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General Report Nos 8 to 10 of 2003-04 [see *Journals* entries [20](#) and [22](#)]
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ Parliamentary Service Commissioner—Report for 2002-03, including a report of the Parliamentary Service Merit Protection Commissioner
- ❑ [2 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ 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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