



# Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday 11 May 2004

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 8.35pm

## Budget 2004-05

[For Budget Papers, Portfolio Budget Statements and related sites click here](#)

The Minister for Finance and Administration tabled the [Budget documents](#) for the year 2004-05 and associated budget papers and ministerial statements. The Opposition, minor parties and independent senators will make their responses to the Budget statement on Thursday 13 May 2004.

The Senate agreed to [a motion](#) by the Minister for Finance and Administration to refer documents to legislation committees to enable the committees to examine the proposed budget. This initiates the estimates hearings process. Portfolio budget statements and portfolio [supplementary additional estimates statements](#) for [parliamentary](#) and [executive departments](#) were also tabled.

## Privilege

The President made [a statement](#) relating to a matter of privilege raised by Senators Knowles and Humphries concerning the unauthorised disclosure of a draft report of the Community Affairs References Committee and indicated that the committee had investigated the matter in accordance with the order of the Senate of 20 June 1996. Senator Mackay gave [a notice of motion](#) to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

## Procedural changes

The Senate debated and agreed to recommendations made by two Procedure Committee reports.

The Procedure Committee's [Third Report of 2003](#) made recommendations relating to future parliamentary addresses by visiting foreign heads of state, and the reference of the annual Tax Expenditures Statement to legislation committees.

The Procedure Committee's [First Report of 2004](#) made recommendations relating to: standing order 61 for the consideration of government documents; divisions called after 4.30pm on Thursdays; and the number of senators required to support a suspension of standing orders in relation to formal motions.

## Change in sitting hours

[The Senate agreed](#) to a variation in sitting hours and routine of business for 13 May 2004

## Legislation

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

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Surveillance Devices Bill 2004
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Award Simplification) Bill 2002

### The following bill was passed

*With amendments*

- ❑ Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill (No. 2) 2004  
(6 Opposition [amendments agreed to](#)) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

### The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

[The bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate to House amendments nos 6, 7 and 8
- ❑ Health and Ageing Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [2004]–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment
- ❑ Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Family Law) Bill 2002–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate
- ❑ Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate

### Assent to laws

[Assent](#) to a number of laws was reported in the Senate

### Proclamations

[Proclamations](#) by the Governor-General were tabled announcing when particular provisions 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](#)

See the **Documents** section for details of instruments [Clerk's documents] tabled

## Committees

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

For committee reports [click here](#)

## Estimates

The particulars of proposed expenditure for 2004-05 (the amounts contained in the appropriation bills) [were referred](#) to Senate legislation committees—to report by 17 June 2004

## Reports tabled

- Anti-terrorism Bill 2004—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003—Interim Report—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Parliamentary delegation to the Solomon Islands, 17 and 18 December 2003—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill 2004—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

## Document tabled

- Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004—Economics Legislation Committee—Further additional information

## Government response to committee report tabled

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—390<sup>th</sup> report—Review of the Auditor-General's reports 2001-02: First, second and third quarters

## Membership

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

## New inquiry

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiry:

- Functioning of the Office of the Chief Scientist and potential conflicts of interest arising from the dual role of the Chief Scientist and [related matters](#)—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 24 June 2004

## Reporting date

The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:

- Capacity of current legal aid and access to justice arrangements to meet the community need for legal assistance—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 26 May 2004

### Notices of motion given

#### *To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting*

- Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee–13 May 2004 from 3.30pm to 6pm–Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Amendment (Employee Involvement and Compliance) Bill 2002
- Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–12 May 2004 from 4.30pm–Migration Amendment (Judicial Review) Bill 2004
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–12 May 2004 from 4pm–Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–13 May 2004 from 4pm to 6pm–administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for bananas

#### *To extend reporting deadlines*

- Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J*–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 5 August 2004
- Forestry plantations–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by 24 June 2004
- Rural water resource usage–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by 12 August 2004

#### *To refer a matter to a committee*

- Mistreatment of prisoners detained under the control of the United States of America or its coalition partners in Iraq, Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay and [related matters](#)–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–to report by 23 June 2004

## Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Human rights abuses in Iraq](#)–moved by Senators [Bartlett](#) and [Stott Despoja](#) (as a matter of urgency)
- [Nuclear non-proliferation](#)–moved by Senator Allison

## Notices of motion

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

## Orders for the production of documents

### Orders with continuing effect

#### *Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet*

A statement of compliance for the Australian Taxation Office was tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; [Senate order](#) agreed to]

*Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet*

A statement of compliance for the Transport and Regional Services portfolio was 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—[Reports Nos 39 to 45](#) of 2003-04—Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [Government document](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ [9 petitions](#) were received

## Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ The President tabled the original certificate of the choice by the Parliament of Victoria of Mitchell Fifield to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Alston
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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