



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday, 25 November 2008

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 11.38pm

Legislation

Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 5) Bill 2008
[Passed by the House of Representatives on 24 November 2008]

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Migration Legislation Amendment (Worker Protection) Bill 2008—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Water Amendment Bill 2008—second reading agreed to [[first speaker](#)] and committee of the whole commenced—1 Opposition, 1 Australian Greens, 2 Senator Xenophon and 2 Opposition/Australian Greens [amendments](#) agreed to [further amendments remain to be considered]

Notices of motion

To introduce a bill

- ❑ Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008—notice given by the Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner)

To exempt a bill from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ Guarantee Scheme for Large Deposits and Wholesale Funding Appropriation Bill 2008—notice given by the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig)

Message from the House of Representatives

- National Rental Affordability Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008—agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate [This bill will now be assented to]

Bills assented to

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

Variation to hours of meeting

The Senate agreed to vary the [hours of meeting](#) for the remainder of the week to enable the Government's legislative program to be considered.

See *Committees* for details of reports relating to legislation

Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

Report tabled

- [Broadcasting Legislation](#) Amendment (Digital Television Switch-over) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee

Additional information tabled

- Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008; Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008; ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008—Community Affairs Committee
- Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Bill 2008—Community Affairs Committee

New inquiries

- Fair Work Bill 2008—Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee—to report by 27 February 2009
- [Impact of the ABC Learning collapse](#)—Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee—to report by 12 March 2009

Meetings during Senate sittings

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings Joint Committee—25 November 2008 from 4.00pm—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Economics Committee—25 November 2008 from 6.00pm—COAG Reform Fund Bill 2008 and 2 related bills

Reporting date extended

The Senate extended the reporting date for the inquiry of the Finance and Public Administration Committee into the Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008 to 15 June 2009.

Proposed extension of reporting date

The Senate did not agree to extend the reporting date for the inquiry of the Economics Committee into the Corporations Amendment (Short Selling) Bill 2008.

Notices of motion given

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting:

- Economics Committee–
 - 26 November 2008 from 4.30pm–matters relating to the gas explosion at Varanus Island, Western Australia
 - 26 November 2008–in camera hearing

To refer a matter to a committee:

- [Importation of Cavendish bananas](#)–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee–to report by 19 March 2009–notice given by Senator Heffernan

Membership

The Senate discharged Senator Adams from the Men’s Health Select Committee from 25 November 2008 to the end of the 2008 sittings, and appointed Senator Parry as a member of the committee for that period.

Documents

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

- [Clerk’s documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

Notices of motion withdrawn

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances withdrew notices to disallow the following delegated legislation:

- [Defence Force](#) (Home Loans Assistance) Amendment Regulations 2008 (No. 1)
- [Wool Services Privatisation](#) (Research Body) Declaration 2008

Documents tabled

- [Government documents](#)
- Parliamentary zone–proposal and documentation for the construction of a new cooling plant enclosure at Old Parliament House. A [notice of motion](#) was given to approve the proposal.

Other business

[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—first question](#)
[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motions agreed to

- [Executive salaries](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Harmful effects of pesticides](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Japanese whaling](#)—moved by Senator Siewert
- [White Ribbon Day](#)—moved by Senators Hanson-Young and Ludlam

Motions negatived

- [Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme](#)—moved by Senator Abetz
- [GROCERYchoice website](#)—moved by Senator Xenophon
- [International aid target](#)—moved by Senator Hanson-Young

Statement by President

The President made a [statement](#) relating to the restructuring of question time and a supplementary question asked on 24 November 2008.

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

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Online

The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the *Journals of the Senate*, on the Internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/index.htm>

Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or 'Senate Red') and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate

Contact details

Inquiries, comments and suggestions: phone 6277 3021
e-mail: sds@aph.gov.au