



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday, 19 August 2009

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.51pm

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- Higher Education Support Amendment (2009 Budget Measures) Bill 2009
- Veterans' Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Pension Reform) Bill 2009

[passed by the House of Representatives on 19 August 2009]

The following bills were debated

- Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2009 and a related bill—second reading agreed to [[first speaker](#)] and [committee of the whole](#) commenced—1 AG amendment to be determined [further amendments remain to be considered]

Notices of motion to introduce private senators' bills

- Plain Tobacco Packaging (Removing Branding from Cigarette Packs) Bill 2009—notice given by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
- Water Licence Moratorium Bill 2009—notice given by Senator Xenophon

Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)
[For committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 10](#) of 2009 and [9th report](#) of 2009 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]

New inquiry

The Senate agreed to refer [matters](#) relating to the removal of the 40 per cent fee rebate for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service export certification functions to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee to report by 14 September 2009.

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

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

- ❑ Community Affairs References Committee—20 August 2009 from 3.30pm—Impact of gene patents on the provision of healthcare in Australia
- ❑ Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—19 August 2009 from 5.30pm—Private briefing
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—19 August 2009 from 5.00pm—Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)

Reporting date extended

The Senate agreed to extend the reporting date for the inquiry of the Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee into forestry and mining operations on the Tiwi Islands to 26 October 2009.

Notices of motion given

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- ❑ Economics Legislation Committee—20 August 2009 from 5.00pm—Private briefing
- ❑ Economics References Committee—20 August 2009—Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)

To refer matters to committees

- ❑ Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee—[Matters](#) relating to sustainable management of water resources—to report by 29 November 2009—notice given by Senators Xenophon and Heffernan
- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—[Matters](#) relating to human rights in Tibet—to report by 26 November 2009—notice given by Senator Ludlam

Membership

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

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](#) to disallow given

- [Migration Amendment Regulations](#) 2009 (No. 6), as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2009 No. 143 and made under the *Migration Act 1958*—notice given by Senator Fierravanti-Wells
- Proclamation made on 14 May 2009 [Coral Sea Conservation Zone] under subsection 390D(1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*—notice given by Senators Boswell and Macdonald
- [Remuneration Tribunal Determination](#) 2009/11: Members of Parliament – Travelling allowance, made under the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*—notice given by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Threat Abatement Plan](#) for disease in natural ecosystems caused by *phytophthora cinnamomi* (2009), made under section 279 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*—notice given by Senator Siewert

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to the following orders requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator Ludwig) to table documents:

- [Report](#) of the Government's National Preventative Health Taskforce—no later than 12.00pm on 20 August 2009
- [Documents](#) relating to the audited general purpose accounts of aged care providers—no later than 12.00pm on 20 August 2009

Statement by Minister

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) made a [statement](#) in response to an order of the Senate agreed to on [18 August 2009](#) for documents relating to budget measures for chemotherapy treatment.

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

Letters of advice for the Finance and Deregulation and Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolios were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

A statement of compliance for the Health and Ageing portfolio was tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Document tabled

- [A petition](#) [a [statement](#) was made in relation to the petition]

Ministerial statements tabled

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) tabled ministerial statements on:

- ❑ Progress on the excavation and reinterment of World War I remains discovered in Fromelles, France
- ❑ Supporting Australians under financial pressure [a [motion](#) to take note of the statement was agreed to]

Other business

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

[Matters of public interest debate—first speaker](#)

[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motion agreed to

- ❑ [Hearing Awareness Week](#)—moved by Senator Siewert

Motion negatived

- ❑ [Japan and comfort women](#)—moved by Senator Hanson-Young

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

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