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1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 12.30 pm. The President (Senator the Honourable John Hogg) took the chair and read prayers.

2 NOTICE

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) acknowledges:
 - (i) the contribution made to Australia by the 5 000 Hazaras now living in Australia, and
 - (ii) reports of increasing discrimination and violence against Hazaras living in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and
- (b) sends its condolences to the family and supporters of Mr Hussein Ali Yousufi, the Leader of the Hazara Democratic Party, who was assassinated in Quetta City on Australia Day 2009. (*general business notice of motion no. 350*)

3 DAYS AND HOURS OF MEETING AND ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—ESTIMATES HEARINGS—VARIATION—FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCES—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING—CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans), by leave, moved—That—

- (1) The additional estimates hearings of standing committees scheduled for the week beginning 9 February 2009 not take place.
- (2) The Senate meet from Monday, 9 February to Thursday, 12 February 2009.
- (3) The Senate not meet from Monday, 23 February to Thursday, 26 February 2009.
- (4) The 2008-09 additional estimates hearings by standing committees be scheduled as follows:
 - Monday, 23 February and Tuesday, 24 February 2009, and, if required, Friday, 27 February 2009 (*Group A*)
 - Wednesday, 25 February and Thursday, 26 February 2009, and, if required, Friday, 27 February 2009 (*Group B*).
- (5) (a) The provisions of the following bills (the bills) be referred to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for inquiry and report by 10 February 2009:
 - Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No. 1) 2008-2009
 - Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No. 2) 2008-2009
 - Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Amendment Bill 2009
 - Household Stimulus Package Bill 2009
 - Tax Bonus for Working Australians Bill 2009
 - Tax Bonus for Working Australians (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2009;
- (b) the provisions of the Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No. 2) 2008-2009 relating to the social housing program be referred to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 10 February 2009; and

- (c) the Community Affairs Committee may not meet to consider the bill at the same time as the Finance and Public Administration Committee is meeting to consider that bill and related bills.
- (6) Notwithstanding the reference of the provisions of the bills, the Senate may consider the bills to the conclusion of the second reading stage, but shall not further consider the bills until the reports of the Finance and Public Administration Committee and the Community Affairs Committee on the bills have been tabled.
- (6A) On Tuesday, 10 February 2009:
 - (a) the hours of meeting shall be 12.30 pm to 7 pm and 7.30 pm to 11.40 pm;
 - (b) the routine of business after 7.30 pm shall be consideration of the bills (second reading speeches);
 - (c) from 7.30 pm, any question in respect of which a division is called for, and any questions consequent on the outcome of that division, shall stand postponed until the next day of sitting at a time fixed by the Senate; and
 - (d) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 11 pm.
- (8) The Finance and Public Administration Committee shall take evidence from government departments and agencies, including (but not limited to):
 - (a) Treasury;
 - (b) Centrelink;
 - (c) Education, Employment and Workplace Relations;
 - (d) Environment, Heritage and the Arts; and
 - (e) Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
- (9) The Finance and Public Administration Committee shall meet on Monday, 9 February 2009 after 4 pm to take further evidence in relation to the bills from non-government organisations, community groups and other interested parties as determined by the committee.
- (10) The presentation of the reports of both committees on the bills occur by 7.31 pm on Tuesday, 10 February 2009.
- (11) On Thursday, 12 February 2009, the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to adjournment, and the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall not be proposed until the Senate has finally considered the bills listed in paragraph (5).
- (12) If the Senate has not finally determined the bills by midnight on Thursday, 12 February 2009, the President or the chairman shall immediately put the question on any amendment or motion already proposed from the chair, and shall then propose any other question requisite to dispose of the bills.

Question put and passed.

4 BUSHFIRES IN VICTORIA

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans), by leave, moved—That the Senate—

- (a) records its deep regret at the loss of at least 108 lives as a result of Victorian bushfires that are continuing to threaten the state;
- (b) notes that four of these were children and the threat of these fires is not yet over;

- (c) expresses its heartfelt concern for those under hospital care suffering from severe burns and other critical injuries; and
- (d) conveys its thoughts and prayers to the families of the deceased and injured whose pain and suffering is shared by all Australians.

The motion was supported and all senators present stood in silence—

Question passed.

5 ADJOURNMENT

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) moved—That, as a mark of respect to the memory of those killed as a result of bushfires in Victoria, the Senate do now adjourn.

The Senate adjourned at 1.15 pm till Tuesday, 10 February 2009 at 12.30 pm.

6 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senator Adams (on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate