

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

# NOTICE PAPER

No. 1

WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2008

*The Senate meets at 9.30 am*

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*Notifications prefixed by an (\*) appear for the first time.*

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### Notice of Motion

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

\*1 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move—That—

Today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

We reflect on their past mistreatment.

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations – this blemished chapter in our nation’s history.

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia’s history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.

We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.

A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.

A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

**Notice of amendment: Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):**  
To move—That paragraph 10 of the Government's notice of motion no. 1 be amended in the following terms: After the words: 'We the Parliament of Australia' insert 'commit to offering just compensation to all those who suffered loss and'.

## Order of the Day

### \*1 Governor-General's Opening Speech

Consideration (*12 February 2008*).

## Notices of Motion—continued

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

### \*2 Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig): To move—That the days of meeting of the Senate for 2008 be as follows:

#### **Autumn sittings:**

Tuesday, 12 February to Thursday, 14 February

#### **Autumn sittings (2):**

Tuesday, 11 March to Thursday, 13 March

Monday, 17 March to Thursday, 20 March

#### **Budget sittings:**

Tuesday, 13 May to Thursday, 15 May

#### **Winter sittings:**

Monday, 16 June to Thursday, 19 June

Monday, 23 June to Thursday, 26 June

#### **Spring sittings:**

Tuesday, 26 August to Thursday, 28 August

Monday, 1 September to Thursday, 4 September

Monday, 15 September to Thursday, 18 September

Monday, 22 September to Thursday, 25 September

Monday, 13 October to Thursday, 16 October

#### **Spring sittings (2):**

Monday, 10 November to Thursday, 13 November

Monday, 24 November to Thursday, 27 November

Monday, 1 December to Thursday, 4 December.

### \*3 Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig): To move—

#### (1) That standing order 25(1) be amended as follows:

Omit: 'Employment, Workplace Relations and Education'

Substitute: 'Education, Employment and Workplace Relations'

Omit: 'Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts'

Substitute: 'Environment, Communications and the Arts'.

- (2) That departments and agencies be allocated to legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:

*Community Affairs*

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Health and Ageing

*Economics*

Treasury  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research  
Resources, Energy and Tourism

*Education, Employment and Workplace Relations*

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

*Environment, Communications and the Arts*

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

*Finance and Public Administration*

Parliament  
Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Climate Change)  
Finance and Deregulation  
Human Services

*Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade*

Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

*Legal and Constitutional Affairs*

Attorney-General  
Immigration and Citizenship

*Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport*

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

**\*4 Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig): To move—**

- (1) That estimates hearings by standing committees for 2008 be scheduled as follows:

**2007-08 additional estimates:**

Monday, 18 February and Tuesday, 19 February and, if required, Friday, 22 February (*Group A*)  
Wednesday, 20 February and Thursday, 21 February and, if required, Friday, 22 February (*Group B*).

**2008-09 Budget estimates:**

Monday, 26 May to Thursday, 29 May and, if required, Friday, 30 May (*Group A*)  
Monday, 2 June to Thursday, 5 June and, if required, Friday, 6 June (*Group B*)  
Monday, 20 October and Tuesday, 21 October, and if required, 24 October (*supplementary hearings—Group A*)  
Wednesday, 22 October and Wednesday, 23 October and, if required, 24 October (*supplementary hearings—Group B*).

- (2) That the committees consider the proposed expenditure in accordance with the allocation of departments and agencies to committees agreed to by the Senate.

- (3) That committees meet in the following groups:

**Group A:**

Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Finance and Public Administration  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

**Group B:**

Community Affairs  
Economics  
Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

- (4) That the committees report to the Senate on the following dates:

- (a) Tuesday, 18 March 2008 in respect of the 2007-08 additional estimates; and  
(b) Tuesday, 24 June 2008 in respect of the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

- \*5 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That the following operate as temporary orders until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

(1) **Adjournment debate on Tuesday**

On the question for the adjournment of the Senate on Tuesday, a senator who has spoken once subject to the time limit of 10 minutes may speak again for not more than 10 minutes if no other senator who has not already spoken once wishes to speak, provided that a senator may by leave speak for not more than 20 minutes on one occasion.

(2) **Divisions on Thursday**

If a division is called for on Thursday after 4.30 pm, the matter before the Senate shall be adjourned until the next day of sitting at a time fixed by the Senate.

(3) **Substitute members of committees**

If a member of a committee appointed under standing order 25 is unable to attend a meeting of the committee, that member may in writing to the chair of the committee appoint a participating member to act as a substitute member of the committee at that meeting. If the member is incapacitated or unavailable, a letter to the chair of a committee appointing a participating member to act as a substitute member of the committee may be signed on behalf of the member by the leader of the party or group on whose nomination the member was appointed to the committee.

- \*6 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That the Senate take note of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

- \*7 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That, on Thursday, 14 February 2008:

- (a) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to adjournment;  
(b) consideration of general business shall not be proceeded with;  
(c) the routine of business from not later than 4.30 pm shall be further consideration of the motion to take note of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations; and

- (d) if that debate has not concluded by 6 pm, then:
- (i) consideration of committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports under standing order 62(1) and (2) not be proceeded with, and
  - (ii) at the conclusion of the debate, the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed.

\*8 **Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to give effect to the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and for related purposes. *Cross-Border Insolvency Bill 2008*.

\*9 **Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to the financial sector, and for related purposes. *Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Review of Prudential Decisions) Bill 2008*.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY RELATING TO COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

### Orders of the Day relating to Committee Reports and Government Responses

- \*1 **Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee—Report—Review of the re-listing of three terrorist organisations**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*2 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Crimes Legislation Amendment (Child Sex Tourism Offences and Related Measures) Bill 2007 [Provisions]**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*3 **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee—Interim report—The changing nature of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*4 **Economics—Standing Committee—Interim report—Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008 and National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

### Order of the Day relating to Auditor-General's reports

- \*1 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 7 of 2007-08—Performance audit—The Senate order for departmental and agency contracts (calendar year 2006 compliance)**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*2 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 8 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Proof of identity for accessing Centrelink payments—Centrelink; Department of Human Services**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*3 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 9 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Australian apprenticeships—Department of Education, Science and Training**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*4 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 10 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Whole of Government Indigenous service delivery arrangements**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*5 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 11 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Management of the FFG capability upgrade—Department of Defence; Defence Materiel Organisation**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*6 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 12 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Administration of high risk income tax refunds in the individuals and micro enterprises market segments—Australian Taxation Office**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*7 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 13 of 2007-08—Performance audit—The Australian Taxation Office’s approach to managing self managed superannuation fund compliance risks—Australian Taxation Office**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*8 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 14 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Performance audit of the Regional Partnerships Programme—**  
**Volume 1: Summary and recommendations**  
**Volume 2: Main report**  
**Volume 3: Project case studies—**  
**Department of Transport and Regional Services**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*9 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 15 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Administration of Australian business number registrations: Follow-up audit—Australian Taxation Office**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*10 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 16 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Data integrity in the child support agency—Child Support Agency; Department of Human Services**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*11 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 17 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Management of the IT refresh programme—Centrelink**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*12 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 18 of 2007-08—Financial statement audit—Audits of the financial statements of Australian Government entities for the period ended 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*13 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 19 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Administration of the Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme—Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; Australian Customs Service**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*14 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 20 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Accuracy of Medicare claims processing—Medicare Australia**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*15 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 21 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Regional delivery model for the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality—Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).

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## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Notices of Motion

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

- \*1 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) records its deep regret and sadness at the death of Trooper David Pearce who died as part of a roadside bomb attack in Afghanistan on 8 October 2007;
  - (b) commends his loyal and dedicated service to Australia since enlisting in the Army Reserve in 2002, including his deployment to the Solomon Islands in 2005-06; and
  - (c) expresses its sincere condolences to Trooper Pearce's wife and two children, and all loved ones for their tragic loss.
- \*2 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) records its sadness and regret at the death of Sergeant Matthew Locke who died while on operations in Afghanistan on 25 October 2007;
  - (b) notes and commends his dedicated commitment to the Australian Defence Force, particularly his courageous service in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, including 10 years with the Special Air Service Regiment; and
  - (c) expresses its sincere condolences to Sergeant Locke's wife, son, family and friends for their tragic loss.
- \*3 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) records its deep regret at the tragic death of Private Luke Worsley who was killed while serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan on 23 November 2007;



- (b) notes and commends his loyal and dedicated service to the Australian Defence Force since 2001; and
- (c) expresses its sincere condolences to Private Worsley's family and loved ones for their sad and tragic loss.

**\*4 Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding):** To move—

- (1) That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.
- (2) That the following bills be restored to the *Notice Paper* and that consideration of each bill resumed at the stage reached in the 41st Parliament:
  - Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007
  - Qantas Sale (Keep Jetstar Australian) Amendment Bill 2007
  - Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007.

**\*5 Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* to limit unfair banking and credit card penalty fees, and for related purposes. *Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008*.

**\*6 Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) Israel has not yet provided the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre, Southern Lebanon (MACC SL) with maps indicating the locations in Lebanon where cluster munitions were dropped or fired during 2006,
  - (ii) according to MACC SL, Israel's failure to provide these maps has severely hampered and continues to hamper efforts aimed at rendering the land safe for agricultural and other use by removing unexploded sub-munitions,
  - (iii) removal of the estimated one million unexploded cluster munitions was expected to be completed by the end of 2007 but, to date, only 14 per cent have been cleared, and
  - (iv) the media in Lebanon continue to report injuries and deaths brought about as a result of unexploded sub-munitions that remain from the 2006 war; and
- (b) calls on the Australian Government:
  - (i) to urge the Israeli Government to immediately provide MACC SL with maps to assist it in its efforts to remove all unexploded sub-munitions, and
  - (ii) to increase Australia's funding of sub-munition clearance activities being undertaken by MACC SL.

**\*7 Senator Stott Despoja:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) the military junta in control of Myanmar, the State Peace and Development Council, has announced its intention to hold a constitutional referendum in May 2008, in advance of national elections by 2010,

- (ii) the drafting of guidelines for the new constitution has not involved representatives of the National League for Democracy (NLD) or minority ethnic groups and comes at a time when many pro-democracy activists are in prison, and
    - (iii) a clause in the draft constitutional guidelines guarantees the military 25 per cent of the seats in the country's parliament;
  - (b) expresses concern that this process will merely entrench military rule under the guise of democracy;
  - (c) welcomes the Australian Government's long-term advocacy for pro-democracy and ethnic minority groups in Myanmar; and
  - (d) urges the Government to:
    - (i) consider additional measures to pressure the military junta to adopt democratic reforms, and
    - (ii) lobby India, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to:
      - (A) call for the release of NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, and
      - (B) reject the 'roadmap to democracy' and pressure the junta to adopt a dialogue with pro-democracy and ethnic minority representatives for a genuinely inclusive constitutional drafting process.
- \*10 **Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act for the administration of poker machine harm reduction tax and the establishment of the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Transition Fund, and for related purposes. *Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008*.
- \*12 **Senator Bartlett:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Act 1903* to provide for parliamentary approval of overseas service by members of the Defence Force, and for related purposes. *Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Services) Bill 2008*.

### Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

- \*1 **Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995—Report for 2005-06 on the operation of the Act**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*2 **Medibank Private Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*3 **Australian Bureau of Statistics—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*4 **Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*5 **Commissioner for Superannuation (ComSuper)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*6 **Gene Technology Regulator—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*7 **National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority and National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority Board—Reports for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*8 **National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Act 2005—Review of the prostheses listing arrangements by Mr Robert Doyle—Report, dated October 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*9 **Director of National Parks—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*10 **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*11 **Crimes Act 1914—Controlled operations—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*12 **Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*13 **Office of Parliamentary Counsel—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*14 **Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*15 **ASC Pty Ltd—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*16 **Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*17 **Army and Air Force Canteen Service (Frontline Defence Services)—Report for 2006-07, including report on the equal employment opportunity management plan**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*18 **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*19 **Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator—Financial report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*20 **Export Finance and Insurance Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*21 **Australian Government Solicitor—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*22 **Federal Court of Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*23 **Department of the Environment and Water Resources—Reports for 2006-07—**  
**Volume 1—Department of the Environment and Water Resources**  
**Volume 2—Legislation**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*24 **Supervising Scientist—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the *Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978***  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*25 **Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*26 **Film Australia Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*27 **Australian Film Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*28 **Veterans' Review Board—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*29 **Attorney-General's Department—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*30 **Future Fund Board of Guardians and Future Fund Management Agency (Future Fund)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*31 **Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*32 **Film Finance Corporation Australia Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*33 **Repatriation Medical Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*34 **Repatriation Commission, National Treatment Monitoring Committee and Department of Veterans' Affairs—Reports for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*35 **Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*36 **Australian Customs Service—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*37 **Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*38 **Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).

- \*39 **National Residue Survey—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*40 **Interactive Gambling Act 2001—Report for 2006 on the operation of the prohibition on interactive gambling advertisements**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*41 **Australia Council for the Arts (Australia Council)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*42 **Australian Federal Police—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*43 **Australian Office of Financial Management—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*44 **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*45 **Australian Reward Investment Alliance—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*46 **Commonwealth Grants Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*47 **Food Standards Australia New Zealand—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*48 **Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*49 **Department of the Treasury—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*50 **Wet Tropics Management Authority—Report for 2006-07, including State of the Wet Tropics report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*51 **Grains Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*52 **Commonwealth Ombudsman—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*53 **National Library of Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*54 **Australian National Maritime Museum—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*55 **Military Superannuation and Benefits Board of Trustees—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*56 **Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*57 **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*58 **Australian Institute of Criminology and Criminology Research Council—  
Reports for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*59 **National Native Title Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*60 **Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)—Report  
for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*61 **Bundanon Trust Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*62 **Public Lending Right Committee—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*63 **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*64 **Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation—Report  
for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*65 **Centrelink—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*66 **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)—  
Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*67 **National Water Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*68 **Family Law Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*69 **CrimTrac Agency—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*70 **Australian Electoral Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*71 **National Australia Day Council Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*72 **Health Services Australia Limited (HSA Group)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*73 **Bureau of Meteorology—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*74 **Department of Health and Ageing—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*75 **Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*76 **Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency Ltd—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*77 **Department of Veterans' Affairs—Data-matching program—Report on progress 2005 to 2007**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*78 **Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*79 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—NetAlert Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*80 **National Gallery of Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*81 **Sydney Harbour Federation Trust—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*82 **Department of Finance and Administration—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*83 **Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*84 **Professional Services Review—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*85 **Australian Strategic Policy Institute Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*86 **Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post)—Equal employment opportunity program—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*87 **Private Health Insurance Ombudsman—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*88 **Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Report of the Integrity Commissioner for the period 30 December 2006 to 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).

- \*89 **Australian Maritime Safety Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*90 **Office of the Privacy Commissioner—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the *Privacy Act 1988***  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*91 **Department of Human Services—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*92 **Dairy Adjustment Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*93 **Australian Broadcasting Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*94 **Australian Communications and Media Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*95 **National Museum of Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*96 **Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*97 **National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989***  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*98 **Medicare Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*99 **Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*100 **National Archives of Australia and National Archives of Australia Advisory Council—Reports for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*101 **Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*102 **Australian Hearing Services (Australian Hearing)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*103 **Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*104 **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—Reports for 2006-07—  
Volume 1—Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Volume 2—Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).



- \*105 **Administrative Appeals Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*106 **Federal Magistrates Court of Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*107 **Department of Transport and Regional Services—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*108 **Aged Care Commissioner—Report for the period 1 May to 30 June 2007, including a final report of the Aged Care Commissioner for Complaints for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*109 **Defence Housing Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*110 **Department of Defence—Reports for 2006-07—  
Volume 1—Department of Defence  
Volume 2—Defence Materiel Organisation**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*111 **Royal Australian Mint—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*112 **Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Report of the Chief Executive Officer for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*113 **Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*114 **Department of Education, Science and Training—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*115 **Australian Research Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*116 **Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (Land & Water Australia)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*117 **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*118 **Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Report for the period 25 June 2006 to 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*119 **Crimes Act 1914—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Report for 2006-07—Australian Customs Service**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*120 **Indigenous Land Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*121 **Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs—  
Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*122 **Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*123 **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research—Report for  
2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*124 **Family Court of Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*125 **Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited (Teaching  
Australia)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*126 **Sugar Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*127 **Cotton Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*128 **Customs Act 1901—Conduct of customs officers [Managed deliveries]—  
Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*129 **Aged Care Act 1997—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the Act**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*130 **Australian Institute of Family Studies—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*131 **Central Land Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*132 **Northern Land Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*133 **Anindilyakwa Land Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*134 **Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*135 **Australian Fisheries Management Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*136 **Australian Sports Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*137 **Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust Fund—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*138 **The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Limited—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*139 **Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*140 **Natural Heritage Trust of Australia—Report for 2005-06**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*141 **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*142 **Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*143 **Australian Law Reform Commission—Report for 2006-07 (Report no. 106)**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*144 **Administrative Review Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*145 **Classification Board and Classification Review Board—Reports for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*146 **Innovation Australia—Report for 2006-07 on the activities of the Industry Research and Development Board**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*147 **Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*148 **Defence Housing Australia—Statement of corporate intent 2007-08**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*149 **Aged Care Act 1997—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the Act—Correction**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*150 **Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*151 **Inspector-General in Bankruptcy—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the Bankruptcy Act 1966**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*152 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—Public Service Commissioner—Report for 2006-07, including report of the Merit Protection Commissioner**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*153 **Public Service Commissioner—Report for 2006-07, including report of the Merit Protection Commissioner**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*154 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—Department of Employment and Workplace Relations—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*155 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—Comcare—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*156 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—Australian Industrial Registry—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*157 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—Workplace Ombudsman—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*158 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(6) relating to the extension of specified period for the presentation of a report—Australian Building and Construction Commissioner—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*159 **Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*160 **Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*161 **Inspector-General of Taxation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*162 **Superannuation Complaints Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*163 **Tiwi Land Council—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*164 **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—Australia’s welfare 2007—Eighth biennial report**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*165 **Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*166 **Australian Public Service Commission—State of the service—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*167 **Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997—Statement under section 55 relating to the delay in provision of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 to the Auditor-General**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*168 **Freedom of Information Act 1982—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the Act**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*169 **Department of Immigration and Citizenship—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*170 **Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Report for 2006-07 on the operations of the private health insurers**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*171 **Tourism Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*172 **Department of Finance and Deregulation—Consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*173 **Commissioner of Taxation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*174 **Productivity Commission—Report no. 42—Safeguards inquiry into the import of pigmeat: Accelerated report, 14 December 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*175 **Department of Employment and Workplace Relations—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*176 **Australian Industrial Relations Commission and Australian Industrial Registry—Reports for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*177 **Workplace Ombudsman—Report for 2006-07, incorporating the final report of the Office of Workplace Services**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*178 **Employment Advocate—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*179 **Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*180 **Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*181 **Department of Finance and Deregulation—Consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2007—Correction**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*182 Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*183 Comcare—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*184 Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*185 Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare)—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*186 National Health and Medical Research Council—NHMRC Embryo Research Licensing Committee—Report on the operation of the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* for the period 1 April to 30 September 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*187 National Capital Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*188 Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*189 Australian Fair Pay Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*190 Australian Fair Pay Commission Secretariat—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*191 Indigenous Business Australia—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*192 Migration Agents Registration Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*193 Australian Crime Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*194 International Air Services Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*195 Telstra Sale Company Limited—Report for the period 29 September 2006 to 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*196 Innovation Australia—Report for 2006-07 on the activities of the Venture Capital Registration Board**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- \*197 Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- \*198 **Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Report for 2006-07 on the operations of the private health insurers—Correction**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*199 **Parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation—Report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2007, dated January 2008**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*200 **Former parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation—Report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2007, dated January 2008**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*201 **Parliamentarians' overseas study travel reports—Report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2007, dated January 2008**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*202 **Department of the Treasury—Tax expenditures statement 2007, dated January 2008**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*203 **Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*204 **Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*205 **National Transport Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*206 **Civil Aviation Safety Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*207 **Indigenous education and training—National report to Parliament 2005**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*208 **National Health and Medical Research Council—Report for the period 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*209 **Crimes Act 1914—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Report for 2006-07—Australian Crime Commission**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*210 **Acts Interpretation Act 1901—Statement pursuant to section 34C(7) relating to the delay in presentation of a report—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Australian Crime Commission—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- \*211 **Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority—Report for 2006-07**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).



## BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

### Next day of sitting (14 February 2008)

#### Business of the Senate—Notice of Motion

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

- \*1 **Senator Abetz:** To move—That, upon its introduction into the House of Representatives, the provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 be referred to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee for inquiry and report by 28 April 2008, with particular reference to:
- (a) economic and social impacts from the abolition of individual statutory agreements;
  - (b) impact on employment;
  - (c) potential for a wages breakout and increased inflationary pressures;
  - (d) potential for increased industrial disputation;
  - (e) impact on sectors heavily reliant on individual statutory agreements; and
  - (f) impact on productivity.

#### General Business—Notices of Motion

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

- \*8 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 to set renewable power percentages for the period commencing 1 January 2008 and ending 31 December 2020. ***Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008.***
- \*9 **Senator Heffernan:** To move—
- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries be appointed to initially inquire into and report by 16 June 2008, on the following matter:  
The pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global chemical and fertiliser markets, the implications for Australian farmers of world chemical and fertiliser supply and pricing arrangements, monopolistic and cartel behaviour and related matters.
  - (2) That the committee consist of 6 senators, 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 3 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and 1 nominated by minority groups and independent senators.
  - (3) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
  - (4) That the committee elect an Opposition member as chair.



- (5) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
  - (6) That, in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or deputy chair when acting as chair, shall have a casting vote.
  - (7) That the quorum of the committee be 4 members.
  - (8) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to examine.
  - (9) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members.
  - (10) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and interim recommendations.
  - (11) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President.
  - (12) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such documents and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.
- \*11 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997*, and for related purposes. *Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008*.
- \*13 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes the Reserve Bank of Australia’s concern about ‘significant inflation pressures’ and the Rudd Government’s call for wage restraint from Australian workers; and
  - (b) acknowledges that parliamentarians should lead by example in that wage restraint.
- \*14 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes that at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007, an action plan was agreed to, which, *inter alia*, resolved to:
    - (i) urgently enhance implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change,
    - (ii) respond to the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that delay in reducing emissions significantly constrains opportunities to achieve lower stabilisation levels and increases the risk of more severe climate change impacts, and

- (iii) adopt a decision at the UNFCCC meeting in 2009 on the sustained implementation of the convention, through long-term cooperative action after the end of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012;
- (b) agrees that it is in the interest of current and future Australians that the Bali Action Plan succeed in producing an international agreement which minimises the risk of dangerous interference with the climate; and
- (c) calls on the Government to contribute in good faith to a timely successful implementation of the Bali Action Plan.

\*15 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) in December 2007, the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) said that the Government believe that ‘climate change represents one of the greatest moral, economic and environmental challenges of our age’,
  - (ii) on 6 February 2008, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation (Mr Tanner) announced funding cuts to climate-related programs, including \$3 million from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation’s Research Vessel Southern Surveyor, \$6 million from the Biodiversity Hotspots program and \$42 million from the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program, and
  - (iii) in 2007, the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology in Sydney calculated that perverse subsidies supporting fossil fuel industries amounted to between \$6.4 billion and \$7.2 billion in the 2005-06 financial year; and
- (b) calls on the Government to phase out perverse subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and to reverse its decision to cut funding to research into climate change science and renewable energy programs.

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Questions on notice from (1) to (116) were received by the Table Office prior to the first day of the new session and forwarded to ministers and departments for their information. Questions on notice (106) and (265) to (270) have been resubmitted from the 41st Parliament. Questions marked (†) have been answered.*

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

\*1 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Melbourne Anglican Synod recently moved the following ‘without dissent’ motion: ‘That this Synod regrets the Government’s adoption of procedures for certain people seeking political asylum in Australia which exclude them from all public income support while withholding permission to work, thereby creating a group of beggars dependent on the Churches and charities for food and the necessities of life; and calls upon the Federal Government to review such procedures immediately and remove all practices which are manifestly inhumane and in some cases in contravention of our national obligations as a signatory of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights’.

- (2) Is the Minister aware that, as at 23 September 2007, material aid valued at \$1 608 925 has been distributed to the benefit of: (a) asylum seekers on bridging visas (\$840 456); (b) refugees from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan (\$743 100); and (c) tsunami victims in Sri Lanka (\$25 369).
  - (3) (a) When will the Government change the refugee laws so that asylum seekers do not continue to be ‘beggars dependent on the Churches and charities for food and the necessities of life’; and (b) if there is no intention to change the laws, how does the Government consider the needs of such people will be met in the future.
- \*2 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the [former] Minister’s press release of 8 May 2007, ‘\$150 million more for solar technology’, can details be provided of the ‘targeted scheme to support the design and installation of solar systems on commercial, industrial and iconic buildings’, including the budget, commencement date and criteria involved.
- \*3 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—In regard to the approximately 300 000 Australians suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS):
- (1) Is the Minister prepared to provide the necessary funds for the establishment of a research facility and centre of excellence for ME/CFS, in order to address the lack of biomedical research into the illness.
  - (2) (a) Will funds and access to expert resources be provided to improve support services to sufferers and their carers and to raise awareness within the community on management and prevention strategies; and (b) will support and funding be provided to the national association, ME/CFS Australia.
- \*4 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—With reference to the Healthy and Active Transport (HEAT) policy proposal, developed by national and state cycling organisations, including the Bicycle Federation of Australia and the Cycling Promotion Fund, which proposes that \$200 million be committed by the Commonwealth Government to local government, over a 4 year period, to assist the provision of cycling infrastructure and facilities: does the Minister intend to provide funding to the HEAT program; if so, can details be provided of the Government’s commitment; if not, are there any other Government plans in place to support the growing number of cyclists and cycling organisations.
- \*5 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to logging in the forests of the Tiwi Islands:
- (1) (a) Who was the administrator of the islands when the logging proposal was adopted; and (b) what role did the Australian Government take.
  - (2) Have any breaches of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* occurred; if so, are they being checked.
  - (3) What supervisory role has the Minister taken.
  - (4) What further forest clearance is planned.
  - (5) In what way is the deforestation of the Tiwi Islands consistent with the Prime Minister’s declared wish to help end deforestation in Indonesia.

- \*6 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 3242 (Senate *Hansard*, 10 September 2007, p. 191): using existing Australian facilities, how long would it take to dispose of the stockpile of hexachlorobenzene waste at Botany Bay, Sydney.
- \*7 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to Gunns Limited's proposed pulp mill in Bell Bay, Tasmania:
- (1) Who will be appointed to the Independent Expert Group.
  - (2) How stringently will the group be expected to interpret the conditions placed on the mill.
  - (3) (a) Will the Government insist on longer-term and more comprehensive studies relating to the hydrodynamics of the 30 billion litres of effluent which will be released by the mill each year; and (b) given that the \$2 billion mill will be in construction when the studies are completed, will the Government withdraw approval for the mill to operate if the expectations are not met.
  - (4) Is the Minister aware that the wood supply agreement has been finalised but that it contains scant protection for high conservation value forests.
  - (5) How will the Government honour its election promise to ensure that as little high conservation value forest as possible is fed to the mill.
- \*8 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—
- (1) What action will the Government take to remedy the critical situation of wetlands such as the Coorong and the Macquarie Marshes.
  - (2) Will the Minister fast-track the return of water to these wetlands; if so, how.
  - (3) Given the obligations of Australia under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, how will the Government explain the dire state of many of Australia's wetlands at the Ramsar conference of the parties in October and November 2008.
  - (4) Is there evidence of environmental water theft in Ramsar sites, such as the Macquarie Marshes; if so, what steps will be taken to protect the water supply of these sites.
- \*9 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—
- (1) Will the Government follow the bipartisan advice of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage in its report, *Sustainability for survival: creating a climate for change* and establish a sustainability charter; if not, why not.
  - (2) Will the Government introduce legislation to establish a national sustainability commission, headed by a sustainability commissioner.
  - (3) Will the Government act to repeal the *Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2006*, which weakened the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (the Act), and/or introduce further amendments so that the Act can achieve its aims of minimising the degradation of Australia's ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.
  - (4) Will the Government introduce a greenhouse trigger into the Act; if so, what will be its threshold.

- \*10† **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—Is the Minister aware of the study by Forestry Tasmania and the University of Melbourne which assessed the increased risk of extinction of the giant Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle if logging goes ahead as planned in north-east Tasmania; if so: (a) what is the risk posed to the eagle; and (b) what action is the Minister taking to reverse that risk.
- \*11 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—With reference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007: (a) which individuals were included in the Australian Government delegation to the conference; and (b) for each of these people, which organisation did she or he represent.
- \*12† **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—In regard to the wood supply agreement signed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns Limited in November 2007:
- (1) What was the role of the Commonwealth Government in the signing of the agreement and was it consulted.
  - (2) Does the Government accept the 20-year arrangement, which is valid until 2027; if so, is it consistent with the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement, due to expire in 2017.

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*13-\*48)—As at 26 November 2007, with reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) How many employees are engaged in positions responsible for public affairs, media management, liaison with the media and media monitoring.
  - (2) What are the responsibilities of these staff.
  - (3) What are the Australian Public Service classifications of these positions.
  - (4) For each of the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, what is the current operating budget for these media-related sections within the department or agency.
- \*13 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- \*14 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- \*15 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- \*16 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- \*17 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*18 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- \*19 Special Minister of State
- \*20 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- \*21 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- \*22 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- \*23 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- \*24 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- \*25 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- \*26 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- \*27 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

- \*28 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- \*29 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- \*30 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*31 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- \*32 Minister for Human Services
- \*33 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- \*34 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- \*35 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- \*36 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- \*37 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- \*38 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- \*39 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- \*40 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- \*41 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- \*42 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- \*43 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- \*44 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- \*45 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- \*46 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- \*47 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- \*48 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*49-\*84)—As at 26 November 2007, with reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) What is the total number of permanent staff employed on a: (a) full-time; (b) part time; or (c) part-time, equivalent basis.
- (2) How many employees are employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period.
- (3) What are the base and top level salaries of: (a) Australian Public Service level 1 to 6 officers; (b) executive level officers; (c) Senior Executive Service (SES) officers; and (d) equivalent officers.
- (4) How many officers are employed at executive level and SES level.

- \*49 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- \*50 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- \*51 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- \*52 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- \*53 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*54 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- \*55 Special Minister of State
- \*56 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- \*57 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- \*58 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

- \*59 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- \*60 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- \*61 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- \*62 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- \*63 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- \*64 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- \*65 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- \*66 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*67 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- \*68 Minister for Human Services
- \*69 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- \*70 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- \*71 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- \*72 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- \*73 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- \*74 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- \*75 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- \*76 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- \*77 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- \*78 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- \*79 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- \*80 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- \*81 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- \*82 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- \*83 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- \*84 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*85-\*90)—With reference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia from 3 to 14 December 2007:

- (1) What was the length of stay of the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and any ministerial staff in Bali.
- (2) For the duration of the Minister's stay, and for the stay of any Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (3) (a) How many ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary; and (b) for these people, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (4) (a) How many officers from the department were in attendance at the conference; (b) what was the duration of attendance at the conference by these officers; and (c) for these officers, what was the total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

- \*85 Minister representing the Prime Minister

- \*86 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*87 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- \*88 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- \*89 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- \*90 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*91 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—
- (1) Is the Minister aware that the International Energy Agency (IEA) considers that coal-fired power stations which are more than 10 years old may not be able to be retro-fitted with clean coal technology without expensive upgrades.
  - (2) How many coal-fired power stations in Australia are: (a) between 10 and 20 years old; (b) between 20 and 30 years old; (c) between 30 and 40 years old; and (d) more than 40 years old.
  - (3) Is the Minister aware that the Owen Inquiry into Electricity Supply in New South Wales (Owen inquiry): (a) suggested energy losses of up to 30 per cent if greenhouse gases are captured and stored; and (b) indicated that clean coal technology is unlikely to be ready before 2020.
  - (4) Does the Government have any evidence that contradicts the IEA and the Owen inquiry advice; if so, what is that evidence.
  - (5) Will criteria for the proposed \$500 million National Clean Coal Fund take into account views of the IEA and the Owen inquiry; if so, in what way.
- \*92 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme, initiated in 2001:
- (1) For each year of its operation, what has been the expenditure on the program,
  - (2) How many recipients, in each of the categories of individuals, pastoral stations, other businesses and aboriginal communities, have been recipients of funding under the program.
  - (3) What is the estimated level of displacement of diesel fuel due to the program.
  - (4) What is the estimated level of greenhouse abatement due to the program: (a) to date; and (b) to 2010.
- \*93 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—
- (1) In the lead-up to the 2007 federal election, was there any appointments or reappointments to the Board of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS); if so: (a) who; (b) on what dates was the appointment made and accepted; and (c) for what period.
  - (2) (a) Can the Minister confirm that SBS staff are gagged by way of a confidentiality agreement; and (b) can a copy of a typical confidentiality agreement be provided.
  - (3) Can the Minister confirm that ordinary workers at SBS are not allowed to discuss any objections they may have about advertising on SBS with the mass media; if so, what is the reason for this ban.



- (4) (a) What percentage of programming and how many hours is devoted to programs in Languages Other Than English (LOTE) in the evening prime time slot on a nightly basis on the main SBS television channel, that is, not SBS digital 2; and (b) what percentage is in English.
- (5) Are there any advertisements in LOTE programs on SBS television: if so: (a) how much; and (b) are such advertisements in the same LOTE as the program LOTE to air or are such advertisements placed in English language programs.
- (6) Does SBS television broadcast any English lesson programs aimed at new immigrants; if so, how many hours a week and in what time slots.
- (7) In 2007, which programs were televised with breaks inserted by SBS in the circumstances where, those programs when supplied to SBS in their original format had not been produced, assembled or compiled with provision for any commercial breaks, such as British Broadcasting Corporation programs or cinema-release movies etc.
- (8) Given that the 2006 SBS 'Codes of Practice' makes no provision for a person to dispute the SBS interpretation of a 'natural break' by way of a formal complaint, and that section 5 of the code refers the placement of breaks to the 'Guidelines for the Placement of Breaks in SBS Television Programs' and also that under section 8 of the code, SBS is only required to respond to a formal complaint made under the code and not under the guidelines: how does SBS deal or propose to deal with: (a) complaints about a program being interrupted for a commercial break; and (b) objections to the SBS interpretation of a 'natural break'.
- (9) Why is the definition of 'natural break' in the guidelines different from the definition in the *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991*.
- (10) In relation to natural breaks are there any instances where guidelines 1.1 to 1.8 and 1.10 have been over-ridden by guideline 1.9; if so, can details be provided.
- (11) Is it the case that complaints concerning natural breaks cannot be made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority; if so, why.
- (12) Can details be provided of informal and formal complaints received by SBS in 2007 that related specifically to advertising and the interruption of programs for commercial breaks; if so, in each instance, what was the response by SBS, including those lodged as formal complaints but not recognised as such by SBS.
- (13) For the 12 months to 31 December 2007, how much revenue did SBS receive from all television advertising.
- (14) How much revenue did SBS receive from federal and state government advertising on SBS television for the 12 months to: (a) 31 December 2006; and (b) 31 December 2007.
- (15) If SBS was to stop interrupting programs for advertisements in 2008 and run commercials between programs only, as used to be the case until late 2006, what would be the estimated decrease in revenue, if any, from the 2007 level of revenue.
- (16) If SBS was to stop interrupting programs for advertisements and run advertisements between programs only, as used to be the case until late 2006, how much government funding, in dollar terms and in percentages of federal government funding for SBS, would be required to maintain current SBS operations for the next 12 months.

- (17) How much extra funding in dollar terms and in percentages of federal government funding for SBS would be required for the next 12 months in order to drop advertising completely.

**Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*94-\*95)—

- (1) Has the Minister or the department received any complaints regarding the practices of the Australian International Trade Association (AITA), including the practice of arranging inadequate visas for Australian teachers recruited to teach in China.
- (2) Does the practice of facilitating employment in China with inadequate visas breach any Commonwealth laws.
- (3) Has the department ever engaged in business with AITA, Mr Michael Guo or Mr Steven Guo (also known as Steven Moon); if so, can details be provided of the nature and extent of any such dealings.
- (4) Has the department or any of Australia's consulates or embassies received any complaints in relation to the conduct of AITA, Mr Michael Guo or Mr Steven Guo; if so, can details be provided of the nature and extent of any such complaint.
- (5) Will ministers be required to declare membership of AITA's 'honorary board', pursuant to the Prime Minister's 'Standards of Ministerial Ethics'.

\*94 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

\*95 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

**Senator Allison:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*96-\*98)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the study by Dr Judy Carman of the Institute of Health and Environmental Research in July 2006, commissioned by the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food, which reviewed abstracts listed on the AgBioWorld website ([www.agbioworld.org](http://www.agbioworld.org)) and found that they did not demonstrate that genetically-modified (GM) crops were safe for human consumption, as claimed, and that GM crops may be harmful to human health.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that: (a) of the nine abstracts remaining at the end of this process, the majority (six abstracts, or 67 per cent) show potentially adverse effects of GM crops on the health of the experimental animals, while three (33 per cent) found no adverse effects; (b) the six papers showing adverse effects found evidence that GM potatoes could harm the liver and gastrointestinal tract and GM soy could adversely affect the liver and pancreas; (c) one paper found that GM DNA from GM corn was detectible in the intestinal contents of pigs up to 48 hours after eating, making it available for uptake into tissues and gut bacteria; and (d) three papers found no adverse effects: (i) on the development and function of mouse testes from eating GM corn, (ii) on some biochemical measurements from eating GM potatoes, and (iii) on some pathology, haematology, biochemistry and urine measurements from eating GM soy.
- (3) In light of this study, will the Minister consider a moratorium on further GM crops in Australia, pending further independent, long-term, peer reviewed, multi-generational animal and human feeding studies, measuring outcomes relevant to human health.

- (4) In regard to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority's approval, in 2003, of the applications of Monsanto Aust Ltd and Bayer Crop Science Pty Ltd for GM canola: (a) which independent, long-term, peer reviewed, multi-generational animal and human feeding studies, measuring outcomes relevant to human health, were relied upon; and (b) which, if any, of these studies was conducted in Australia.
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that, of the crop samples so far grown, none has been released for independent, human health-related testing; if so, why.
- (6) Is there any requirement for Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator to review approvals of GM crops and foods as new information is received; if not: (a) why not; (b) when will the Minister announce such a requirement; and (c) how and when should such new information be reviewed.
- (7) (a) If GM canola is introduced into Australia and it is found to have adverse effects on the economy, farming systems, people or the environment, what processes are in place to remove the canola from Australia and/or the food supply; and (b) how effective are these processes likely to be.

\*96 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

\*97 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

\*98 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

\*99 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of plans by the United Kingdom's Department of Health to pilot a scheme which involves the training of pharmacists to prescribe the contraceptive pill in the same way that a general practitioner would, in order to improve access to contraception and reduce unplanned pregnancies.
- (2) What data is available on the relationship between contraceptive use and the rate of unintended pregnancy in Australia.
- (3) Does data available to the Government suggest that the requirement to obtain a prescription for the contraceptive pill and/or limited access to general practitioners is a factor in reducing contraceptive usage rates.
- (4) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve knowledge about, and use of, all methods of contraception.

\*100 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—Will the Government consider awarding Gold Cards to allied merchant seamen who served during World War II and who currently receive a services pension with a health condition; if not, why not.

\*101† **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:

- (1) In regard to the National Travel Behaviour Change Project: (a) has the project been completed; if so, can a report be provided on its effectiveness, by state; (b) is the project still anticipated to cause a reduction of 1.23 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions between 2008 and 2012; if not, why not; and (c) what was/will be the final cost of the project.

- (2) In regard to the project to install cycling facilities at public transport nodes: (a) how many secure bike lockers have been provided and where are these lockers situated; (b) did the project meet the stated objective of encouraging greater use of bicycles for trips to and from public transport nodes; if so, by how many trips; and (c) what was the final cost of the project.
- (3) In regard to the development of national standards for fine particles and air toxics: (a) has the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) established an advisory reporting standard for fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) under the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (AAQ NEPM); if so, can a copy be provided of the reporting standard; (b) has a review been conducted of this standard; (c) has a decision been made on the establishment of a full mandatory standard; if so, what was the decision; if not, why not; (d) was an Ambient Air Toxics (AAT) NEPM established to cover benzene, formaldehyde, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, toluene and xylenes; if not, why not; (e) was an issues paper and a discussion paper prepared in relation to the amending the AAT NEPM to include goals and standards for twelve other air toxics (1,3 butadiene, acetaldehyde, arsenic and compounds, cadmium and compounds, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, nickel and compounds, styrene, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated dioxins and furans); if so, when will the AAT NEPM be amended to include goals and standards for air toxics that the NEPC considers appropriate; if not, why not; and (f) what research has been conducted into the links between pollutants and health effects, in order to inform the process of amending the AAT NEPM.
- (4) In regard to the national fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel: (a) what progress has been made towards a fuel quality standard for: (i) fuel grade ethanol and ethanol/petrol blends, (ii) diesohol, (iii) low density diesel, and (iv) Fischer-Tropsch diesel; (b) what equipment was acquired and deployed for mobile fuel testing to enhance the enforcement of fuel standards; (c) has a report been prepared on compliance with fuel standards; and (d) can details be provided of all breaches of fuel standards since 2003.

\*102† **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:

- (1) In regard to the development of national standards for industrial residues: (a) have the timeframes for milestones in the Chemicals Action Plan for the Environment been met; if not, which milestones have not been met and why; (b) when will standards be developed; and (c) why are standards not referred to in the plan.
- (2) In regard to the national response to priority chemical pollutants: (a) what progress has been made on a national program to address persistent chemicals in the environment, including endocrine disrupters, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and brominated flame retardants; (b) what progress has been made on: (i) research into the Australian context, (ii) technical and management guidance documents, (iii) national action plans on emissions, and (iv) national environment protection measures on priority chemical pollutants; and (c) was a globally harmonised system for the classification and labelling of chemicals implemented by 2006, as agreed; if not, why not.

- (3) What progress has been made on extending the National Pollutant Inventory in keeping with the recommendations of the independent review conducted by Professor Ian Rae, including pollutant transfers.
- (4) In regard to national information on the state of the environment in cities: what progress has been made towards providing additional quantitative indicators and data for the chapter on human settlement in the state of the environment reports, including urban metabolism models for cities and a better understanding of the origin, destination and spatial dynamics of waste flows.

\*103 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:

- (1) In regard to water quality initiatives: (a) following the implementation of the water efficiency labelling scheme for household appliances, fixtures and fittings, what progress has been made towards implementing minimum standards; (b) since the introduction of the labelling scheme, what evidence is there that: (i) consumers have adopted water efficient appliances, and (ii) the manufacture and retailing of more water efficient appliances, fixtures and fittings has been encouraged; and (c) what progress has been made towards developing best practice guidelines for urban water forms which minimise impervious areas, greywater re-use and on-site rainwater collection.
- (2) What progress has been made towards the establishment of a program to improve water quality in local government areas.

\*104 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:

- (1) In regard to the built environment, what progress has been made towards: (a) promoting sustainability of the built environment; and (b) developing a comparative study of building standards and codes, model building specifications and best practice material and guidelines for green buildings, beyond the National Australian Built Environment Rating System.
- (2) In regard to the enhancement of environment education in schools: (a) what progress has been made towards assisting primary and secondary school students to understand how to improve the efficiency of resource use and integrating this into the day-to-day running of schools; (b) how many environment management systems have been put in place for demonstration schools; (c) of these demonstration schools, which are in low socioeconomic areas; and (d) to date, what has been the cost of this program.
- (3) In regard to the green car rating scheme: (a) what evidence is there that the Green Vehicle Guide (GVG) has influenced vehicle purchasing decisions; (b) will the Government consider making it mandatory to publish GVG ratings on advertising and marketing material for new car sales; if not, why not; and (c) will the Government consider introducing mandatory energy efficiency standards for imported and locally manufactured vehicles; if not, why not.

\*105† **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the Minister’s approval, on 20 December 2007, of the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening project, under section 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*:

- (1) What were the reasons for the decision.
- (2) Why were these reasons not released at the time the decision was announced.
- (3) Why were no further studies called for or conducted into the impact of the action, given the changes in scope since the Supplementary Environment Effects Statement was prepared, to which the conditions contained in the decision refer.
- (4) When will the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan (EMP) be made public.
- (5) Will there be an opportunity for public comment before the approval of this plan.
- (6) (a) Why was it considered necessary to require that an amount of \$500 000 or more be provided by the proponent and used for the management, monitoring and/or improvement of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site; and (b) what advice was relied on in arriving at this amount.
- (7) (a) Why was it considered necessary to require that an amount of \$100 000 or more be provided by the proponent and used to observe and monitor migratory bird species; and (b) what advice was relied on in arriving at this amount.
- (8) (a) Is it the case that, under the conditions, the Port of Melbourne Corporation must only report failures to comply with the EMP once annually; and (b) does this mean that greater impacts than those predicted in the Supplementary Environmental Effects Statement may go unreported and not acted on for up to 12 months; if not, what is the process for reporting such performance failures.
- (9) Why is there no requirement in the EMP to monitor the impact of toxic sediment on Port Phillip Bay beaches.
- (10) Will the EMP address the management of the transport and disposal of 23 million cubic meters of soil from the project.

\*106 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening project:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the independent planning panel which assessed the initial Channel Deepening Environment Effects Statement (EES) found that ‘The failure to exhibit the document “Stage 2: Additional Environmental Survey Work”, was a significant procedural defect’ and that ‘The most expeditious remedy for potential parties procedurally disadvantaged by the non-exhibition of documentation will be to participate in the exhibition and public review of a successor document’.

- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Channel Deepening Supplementary Environment Effects Statement (SEES) *Human Health Risk Assessment — Head Technical Report*, produced by Golder Associates Pty Ltd in January 2007, cites an August 2006 report by Jennifer Hale, *Minor Maintenance Dredging Campaign — Water Quality Monitoring in the Dredge and Disposal Plumes* (the Hale report), as the source of water quality data relating to contaminated sediments.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Hale report does not report on any water quality sampling sites from within the Yarra River.
- (4) (a) Is the Minister aware that the Hale report was not included in the Channel Deepening SEES; and (b) will the Minister consider the report in his evaluation of the Channel Deepening Project (CDP) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- (5) (a) Is the Minister aware that the baseline benthic fauna surveys for the Port of Melbourne Dredged Material Ground (DMG), south-east DMG and Yarra River estuary, produced by Sinclair Knight Merz in September 2006, were not included in the Channel Deepening EES or SEES, and that a limited number of copies were made available only after public presentations to the inquiry had been delivered; and (b) will the Minister consider the report in his evaluation of the CDP under the Act.
- (6) (a) Is the Minister aware that the bioaccumulation study produced by Sinclair Knight Merz in April 2006 was not included in the Channel Deepening EES or SEES, and that a limited number of copies were made available only after public presentations to the inquiry had been delivered; and (b) will the Minister consider the study in his evaluation of the CDP under the Act.
- (7) Will the Minister respond to allegations that the documents not included in the SEES, referred to in paragraphs (4), (5) and (6), contain instances where elevated levels of toxins are overlooked, and that data is interpreted in a way that casts a more positive light on the CDP than is actually the case.
- (8) Is the Minister aware that the Channel Deepening SEES Executive Summary produced by the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) in April 2007 states, on page 31, that 'Extensive research by PoMC has identified no health risk concerns for recreational swimmers or consumers of fish caught in the lower reaches of the Yarra River as a result of the CDP'.
- (9) Given that no testing was done for dioxins and radionuclides in the SEES, will the Minister request that this be done.

\*107 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Is the Government aware that, according to clinical trials conducted by the United States of America's National Cancer Institute, Herceptin has been shown to reduce the risk of recurrence by approximately 30 per cent for people with HER-2 gene amplification in early stage breast cancer.
- (2) In the light of these findings, will the Government now consider allowing patients to access Herceptin on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for longer than the current limit of 12 months; if not, why not.

\*108 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Human Services—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that Centrelink provides all job seekers, including those not in receipt of unemployment benefit, with free access to JobSearch facilities; if so, why is it that unemployed job seekers are required to provide personal details about their marital status and dependents and are denied access to those services if they refuse.
- (2) What advice are Centrelink officers instructed to give job seekers in these circumstances.

\*109 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Does the Government stand by its commitment to support a nuclear weapons convention, made on 14 August 2007 by the then Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Robert McClelland in a speech to the United Nations Association.
- (2) Does the Government still consider the idea of a nuclear weapons convention as ‘responsible and timely’; if so, to what extent and in what manner.
- (3) Will the Government support moves to implement a nuclear weapons convention in the terms suggested by the Middle Powers Initiative and the updated model nuclear weapons convention, adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as a discussion document in December 2007.
- (4) In detail, what is the Government’s response to the updated model nuclear weapons convention, tabled by Malaysia and Costa Rica in the UN General Assembly Plenary in December 2007.
- (5) Will the Government proceed with the creation of a new Canberra Commission, as promised by the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) prior to the 2007 election; if so, when.
- (6) (a) Is the Minister aware that a key recommendation of the original Canberra Commission was the lowering of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems; and (b) how has the Government decided to respond to that recommendation and to recommendation 17 of the final report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee, chaired by Dr Hans Blix and tabled on 1 June 2006, to the same effect.
- (7) Does the Government consider the UN resolution ‘Renewed determination toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons’ (the renewed determination) to be an appropriate response.
- (8) In regard to the more recent resolution L.29 on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons system, co-sponsored by New Zealand, Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland: (a) in what way does it differ from the renewed determination; (b) why did Japan, a co-sponsor of the renewed determination, vote in favour of L.29; (c) were there any reasons, other than the exigencies of time, for the incoming Government not to have voted in support of resolution L.29 on operating status as Japan, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and New Zealand did; (d) what is the reaction of the Government to the passage of that text by the UN General Assembly in a vote of 136 to 3; (e) why did the three nations, with whom Australia so frequently votes, vote for this resolution while Australia abstained; (f) why was this abstention maintained in the UN General Assembly Plenary; (g) from which non-government organisations did the Government receive correspondence suggesting that it



ought to change its vote in the Plenary; and (h) is there anything in the text of resolution L.29 that is, or could be interpreted as being, in any way destabilising; if so, what constructive changes might be made to the resolution.

- (9) Will the Government try to advance the issue of nuclear weapons operating status: (a) at the 2008 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee (NPT PrepCom); (b) at the next UN General Assembly First Committee; and/or (c) in its discussions with the United States of America and/or Russia.
- (10) Will the Government consider working together with: (a) New Zealand, Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland at the NPT PrepCom to write a working paper on nuclear weapons operational status; (b) the New Agenda group, both on this issue and more widely on nuclear disarmament issues at the NPT PrepCom; and (c) the New Agenda and the Non-Aligned Movement groups, as well as the western groups and the nuclear weapons states, to promote ongoing progress in nuclear disarmament and strategic stability both via the measures set out in the final report of the Year 2000 NPT review and in the renewed determination, and via a lowering in nuclear weapons operational readiness.
- (11) What further steps will the Government take towards: (a) lowering nuclear weapons operational readiness; and (b) bringing the world closer to the creation and implementation of a nuclear weapons convention, along the lines of the updated model convention submitted to the UN General Assembly Plenary.

\*110 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Since the Photovoltaic Rebate Programme started: (a) how many applications for the rebate have been received by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO); and (b) how many rebates have been granted.
- (2) Since the Solar Hot Water Rebate Programme started: (a) how many applications for the rebate have been received by the AGO; and (b) how many rebates have been granted.
- (3) Since the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme started: (a) how many applications under the program have been received by the AGO; and (b) how many applications have been granted.
- (4) Why has there been a delay in the processing and funding of the rebates.

\*111 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Is the Government aware of recent studies suggesting that: (a) sea levels are currently rising at a rate of 3 centimetres per decade; (b) if warming slows down at about +3°C, sea levels will continue rising by several metres in subsequent centuries; (c) a rise of approximately 2°C, which is forecast within the next several decades, could result in extensive melting of large parts of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, raising sea levels by several metres; (d) glaciers and ice caps fringing Greenland and West Antarctica are already showing rapid ice melt rates and decreasing snow falls; (e) sea levels were between 13 and 27 metres higher than today in the Pliocene era, 3 million years ago when temperatures were 2 to 3°C higher; and (f) approximately 130 000 years ago, when temperatures were 2°C higher, sea levels were between 6 and 8 metres higher than current levels.

- (2) What evidence, if any, does the Government have to suggest that these sea levels, which occurred at temperatures well within the projections of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, would not result with similar temperatures in the future.
- (3) How does the Government regard the risk, expressed by many scientists, of global warming reaching ‘tipping points’ involving the release of methane and a decrease in the ocean’s capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, which would result in the acceleration of climate change out of human control.
- (4) For the purposes of informing its policies on greenhouse abatement and climate change mitigations and adaptation, what levels above the pre-industrial age is the Government using as objectives for the years 2020, 2050 and 2100 for: (a) atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide; (b) global average near-surface air temperature; and (c) the scale of sea level rise.
- (5) If levels have not yet been identified: (a) when will they be identified; and (b) by what process.

\*112 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—

- (1) If the Government has not already procured SMArt 155 munitions, does it intend to.
- (2) In regard to the negotiation of a treaty to ban cluster munitions through the Oslo Process, does the Government: (a) believe that SMArt 155 munitions should be exempted from any treaty that bans cluster munitions; if so, what is the justification for this position; (b) oppose the inclusion of a transition period during which the use of cluster munitions would be permitted under the treaty; (c) support provisions that would prohibit a state party from being involved in the use of prohibited cluster munitions belonging to another country; and (d) support the view that any submunition-based weapons which might fall outside the definition of ‘cluster munition’ under the treaty should, if they are to be acquired by, or are currently in the possession of, the Government, meet certain effects-based criteria (e.g. in relation to the risk of unexploded ordnance) and cumulative technical criteria (e.g. in relation to self-destruct and self-deactivation mechanisms); if so, what specifically would these criteria be.
- (3) Does the Government support the decision by the Government of Israel not to provide de-miners in Lebanon with maps indicating the locations of cluster munition drops which took place during the war in 2006; if not, is the Government willing to publicly condemn the Government of Israel for that decision.

\*113 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence— Does the Government intend to maintain: (a) its status as a nuclear umbrella state, by providing bases, ports and other infrastructure to the United States of America (US) for its nuclear war-fighting apparatus, thereby lending support to the idea that nuclear weapons bring security; if so, what is the justification for maintaining this status; and (b) the decades-long policy of neither confirming or denying whether and when US nuclear-armed warships enter Australian harbours.

- \*114 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission report, *Same-Sex: Same Entitlements*:
- (1) Does the Government intend to:
    - (a) introduce an omnibus bill to remove discrimination from the 58 Commonwealth laws identified by the report as discriminating against same-sex couples and their families; if not, why not;
    - (b) remove all such discrimination from Commonwealth laws within a particular time frame; if so, what is that time frame;
    - (c) enact legislation that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexuality and/or gender identity and provide an avenue of legal redress to those who experience such discrimination; if so, when;
    - (d) create a national relationship registry that would allow opposite-sex and same-sex couples to register their relationships and giving such relationships automatic recognition under Commonwealth law;
    - (e) accept referrals of power from state governments over property division to enable the Commonwealth Government to treat same-sex couples in the same way as opposite-sex couples for the purposes of property law;
    - (f) engage with state governments to achieve fairer laws in regard to parenting presumptions for, and adoptions by, people in same-sex relationships; and/or
    - (g) create a phase-in period for the social security changes recommended in the report as a way of mitigating adverse effects of the changes on the lives of those concerned; if so, how long will the phase-in period be.
  - (2) Following the enactment of legislation aimed at implementing the recommendations of the report, does the Government intend to:
    - (a) conduct an audit of government policy and regulation instructions potentially effected by the legislation; and/or
    - (b) initiate a public education campaign to notify same-sex couples of their new rights.
- \*115 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to media responses by the Minister, spokespersons and the department: Has the Minister established guidelines on which media enquiries will be responded to by the Minister and his office and which media enquiries will be responded to by the department; if so, what are these guidelines.
- \*116 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to overseas travel by the Minister and/or departmental and agency officers since 3 December 2007:
- (1) What overseas travel has been undertaken; (b) what was the purpose of the travel; (c) when did the Minister and/or officers depart Australia; (d) who travelled with the Minister and/or officers; and (e) when did the Minister and/or officers return to Australia.
  - (2) (a) Who did the Minister and/or officers meet during the visit; and (b) what was the time and date of each meeting.
  - (3) (a) On how many trips was the Minister and/or officers accompanied by a business delegation; and (b) can details be provided of each of these delegations.

- (4) Who met the cost of travel and other expenses associated with the trip.
- (5) What total travel and associated expenses, if any, were met by the department in relation to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; (c) the Minister's staff; and (d) departmental and/or agency staff.
- (6) For the Minister, the Minister's family, the Minister's staff and for each departmental/agency officer, what were the costs, per expenditure item, including, but not necessarily limited to: (a) fares; (b) allowances; (c) accommodation; (d) hospitality; (e) insurance; and (f) other costs.
- (7) (a) What was the total cost of air charters used by the Minister or his office or department; and (b) on how many occasions did the Minister or his office or department and associated agencies charter aircraft; and (c) in each case, what was the name of the charter company that provided the service and the respective costs.

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*117-\*152)—With reference to Senator Minchin's letter to the Minister representing the Prime Minister, dated 1 February 2008, can the following information be provided prior to each round of Estimates and for Additional Estimates by 13 February 2008:

- (1) (a) What appointments have been made by the Government (through Executive Council, Cabinet and ministers) to statutory authorities, executive agencies and advisory boards within the Minister's portfolio; and (b) for each appointment, what are the respective appointee's credentials.
- (2) How many vacancies remain to be filled by ministerial (including Cabinet and Executive Council) appointments.
- (3) What grants have been approved by the Minister from within the Minister's portfolio.
- (4) What requests have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to move funds within the Minister's portfolio.

\*117 Minister representing the Prime Minister

\*118 Minister representing the Minister for Education

\*119 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

\*120 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion

\*121 Minister representing the Treasurer

\*122 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

\*123 Special Minister of State

\*124 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

\*125 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

\*126 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

\*127 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

\*128 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

\*129 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation

\*130 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

\*131 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

\*132 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

\*133 Minister for Climate Change and Water

- \*134 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*135 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- \*136 Minister for Human Services
- \*137 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- \*138 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- \*139 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- \*140 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- \*141 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- \*142 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- \*143 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- \*144 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- \*145 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- \*146 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- \*147 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- \*148 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- \*149 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- \*150 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- \*151 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- \*152 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*153-\*188)—(a) Can details be provided of each election commitment the administration of which falls within the Minister's portfolio; and (b) what is the estimated value of each commitment.

- \*153 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- \*154 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- \*155 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- \*156 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- \*157 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*158 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- \*159 Special Minister of State
- \*160 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- \*161 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- \*162 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- \*163 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- \*164 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- \*165 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- \*166 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- \*167 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- \*168 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- \*169 Minister for Climate Change and Water

- \*170 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*171 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- \*172 Minister for Human Services
- \*173 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- \*174 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- \*175 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- \*176 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- \*177 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- \*178 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- \*179 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- \*180 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- \*181 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- \*182 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- \*183 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- \*184 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- \*185 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- \*186 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- \*187 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- \*188 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Cormann:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*189-\*224)—With reference to the Government's pre-election commitment to release surplus land in order to help ease the housing affordability crisis: (a) since 24 November 2007, what land owned by the department or any agency in the Minister's portfolio has been identified as surplus to requirements; and (b) what land is currently for sale or in the process of being sold.

- \*189 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- \*190 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- \*191 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- \*192 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- \*193 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*194 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- \*195 Special Minister of State
- \*196 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- \*197 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- \*198 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- \*199 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- \*200 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- \*201 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- \*202 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- \*203 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

- \*204 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- \*205 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- \*206 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*207 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- \*208 Minister for Human Services
- \*209 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- \*210 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- \*211 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- \*212 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- \*213 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- \*214 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- \*215 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- \*216 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- \*217 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- \*218 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- \*219 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- \*220 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- \*221 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- \*222 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- \*223 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- \*224 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Cormann:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*225-\*260)—

- (1) (a) Since 24 November 2007, what federal funding, programs and/or services to Western Australia have been cut and/or discontinued in any of the Minister's portfolio agencies; and (b) what savings have been made from these cuts.
- (2) (a) What plans does the Government have to cut and/or discontinue federal funding, programs and/or services to Western Australia in any of the Minister's portfolio agencies in the coming period; and (b) what estimated savings would be made from these cuts.

- \*225 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- \*226 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- \*227 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- \*228 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- \*229 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*230 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- \*231 Special Minister of State
- \*232 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- \*233 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- \*234 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- \*235 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

- \*236 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- \*237 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- \*238 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- \*239 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- \*240 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- \*241 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- \*242 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- \*243 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- \*244 Minister for Human Services
- \*245 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- \*246 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- \*247 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- \*248 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- \*249 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- \*250 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- \*251 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- \*252 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- \*253 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- \*254 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- \*255 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- \*256 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- \*257 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- \*258 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- \*259 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- \*260 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Cormann:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos \*261-\*264)—With reference to the pre-election commitment that the Government will set a new 20 per cent renewable energy target to be met by 2020 and a further target to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2050:

- (1) Has any modelling been conducted by any of the Minister's portfolio agencies to assess the economic impact of either of the targets, specifically on how it would impact on inflation; if not, why not; if so: (a) have findings of that modelling been presented to the Government and/or the Minister; (b) what were these findings; (c) has the Minister endorsed these findings; if not, why not.
- (2) When will the findings of any economic modelling referred to in paragraph (1) be made public.

- \*261 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- \*262 Minister representing the Treasurer
- \*263 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- \*264 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts



- \*265 **Senator Ray:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—For each Minister, Assistant Minister or Parliamentary Secretary in each of the former government's portfolios: (a) was the Minister, Assistant Minister or Parliamentary Secretary provided with a pay television package by the department for: (i) the electorate office, (ii) the ministerial office in the home state, and/or (iii) home; and (b) if so, what was the cost of each pay television package.
- \*266 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—
- (1) (a) On what basis would persons applying for a visa to enter Australia receive a warning from the department that their conduct and character may prevent them from being granted a visa in the future; and (b) is an individual ever given the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information which forms the basis of an immigration official's decision to warn a person.
  - (2) For each year since 1996: (a) how many people were denied a visa; and (b) how many of these determinations were based on a person: (i) having a past criminal conviction, and (ii) having been charged but not convicted of a crime.
  - (3) (a) In relation to character grounds, other than criminal convictions, on what grounds will a decision be made to refuse a visa; and (b) what steps, if any, do immigration officials take to verify the information.
  - (4) For each year since 1996, how many times has the Minister or the previous Minister exercised his or her discretion pursuant to section 499 of the *Migration Act 1958* to permit the entry of people into Australia.
  - (5) For each year since 1996, how many people have exercised their appeal rights to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in relation to decisions to refuse entry on the basis of character grounds.
- \*267 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—
- (1) Under what legislation, regulations or codes are 'public interest disclosure' and/or whistleblower and like claims processed.
  - (2) What criteria are used in the Australian Public Service generally to determine the validity of claims under 'public interest disclosure' situations, that is, by whistleblowers or people making whistleblower-like claims or allegations.
  - (3) Does the criterion for assessing the validity of a whistleblower or a whistleblower type claim include any psychiatric or psychological assessment; if so, what is the legislative basis for such an assessment, including specific clauses.
- \*268 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—
- (1) Does the Minister intend to reconvene a working party with a view to settling the remaining 16 Casualties of Telstra (COT) cases from the late 1990s.
  - (2) What support, if any, is the Minister offering the remaining 16 COTs.
  - (3) Will the Minister arrange an independent loss assessment for the remaining 16 COT cases so that full and final settlement can occur.

\*269 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What costs would be incurred and what ramifications are there if the administration of the Medicare Levy surcharge was adjusted to ensure that it affects or is calculated for same-sex couples on the same basis as mixed-sex couples.
- (2) In view of the Prime Minister's statements in favour of ending discriminatory provisions, does the government intend to address this deficiency.

\*270 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) With reference to the former Treasurer's statement of 27 June 2007 on the release of the 2006 census information that 'the Census forms the basis for our electoral system, the provision of services and policy to meet the challenges that we face': does this mean that the effects of fly-in and fly-out workers who record their domicile elsewhere, or of transient/tourist numbers, will not be sufficiently taken into account for the provision of services in shires such as Roebourne and Wyndham East Kimberley; if not, how are fly-in fly-out or transient/tourist requirements factored in.
  - (2) Given that, according to the recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census figures, in the Kimberley Region, between 2001 and 2006, the population of Broome has risen by only 1.8 per cent, or 1 240 people, and in the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, by just 0.4 per cent, or 133 people: (a) why do these figures differ from the shires' views as to significant real population growth; and (b) how were these figures arrived at, given, for instance, that school student numbers, a good indicator of permanency, in the region have risen by more than this amount in absolute terms (e.g. at Kununurra District High School, by at least 13 per cent).
  - (3) Do census collectors obtain accurate figures from Indigenous communities in the Kimberley; if not, what is the degree of error.
  - (4) Has the ABS investigated its figures to determine how such apparent small rises in overall population in the Kimberley can be possible, given the rise in housing demand and construction in these areas since the 2001 census and the overall increase in numbers of children enrolled in the local schools, in some areas, up at least 10 per cent.
  - (5) Given that, according to an ABS seminar in Kununurra in 2007, the community was advised that the figures for the 2006 census were collated based on 'place of enumeration' while the method used in the 1996 census and the 2001 census was 'usual place of residence': (a) what impact has this change had on the census outcome; and (b) have Australians still continued to identify their usual place of residence (e.g. Perth) rather than place of enumeration (e.g. Argyle Mine).
  - (6) Can the Treasurer confirm that any funding allocations from the Commonwealth, which are aligned to population numbers based on the census, will take into account other factors, such as housing demand and school enrolments in the East Kimberley, when considering funding allocation.
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## ORDERS OF THE SENATE

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### Amendment to an order of continuing effect

#### 1 Departmental and agency contracts—Order for production of documents

That paragraph (7) of the order be amended to read as follows:

- (7) The Finance and Public Administration Committee consider the ongoing operation of the order and report on relevant developments from time to time.

*(Agreed to 1 March 2007 upon adoption of recommendation 13 in the Finance and Public Administration Committee's second report on the operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts (2003-06).)*

### Committees

#### 2 Allocation of departments

Departments and agencies are allocated to the legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:

*Community Affairs*

Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Health and Ageing

*Economics*

Treasury  
Industry, Tourism and Resources

*Employment, Workplace Relations and Education*

Employment and Workplace Relations  
Education, Science and Training

*Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*

Environment and Water Resources  
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

*Finance and Public Administration*

Parliament  
Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Finance and Administration  
Human Services

*Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade*  
 Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)  
*Legal and Constitutional Affairs*  
 Attorney-General  
 Immigration and Citizenship  
*Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport*  
 Transport and Regional Services  
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

(Agreed to 9 February 2006, amended 8 February 2007.)

### 3 Privileges—Standing Committee—Adoption of 94th report recommendation

That the Senate authorise the President, if required, to engage counsel as *amicus curiae* if either the action for defamation against Mr David Armstrong or a similar action against Mr William O'Chee is set down for trial.

(Agreed to 4 September 2000.)

### 4 Unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings

That the following order operate as an order of continuing effect:

- (1) The Senate confirms that any disclosure of evidence or documents submitted to a committee, of documents prepared by a committee, or of deliberations of a committee, without the approval of the committee or of the Senate, may be treated by the Senate as a contempt.
- (2) The Senate reaffirms its resolution of 20 June 1996, relating to procedures to be followed by committees in cases of unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings.
- (3) The Senate provides the following guidelines to be observed by committees in applying that resolution, and declares that the Senate will observe the guidelines in determining whether to refer a matter to the Committee of Privileges:
  1. Unless there are particular circumstances involving actual or potential substantial interference with the work of a committee or of the Senate, the following kinds of unauthorised disclosure should not be raised as matters of privilege:
    - (a) disclosure of a committee report in the time between the substantial conclusion of the committee's deliberations on the report and its presentation to the Senate;
    - (b) disclosure of other documents prepared by a committee and not published by the committee, where the committee would have published them, or could appropriately have published them, in any event, or where they contain only research or publicly-available material, or where their disclosure is otherwise inconsequential;
    - (c) disclosure of documents and evidence submitted to a committee and not published by the committee, where the committee would have published them, or could appropriately have published them, in any event;
    - (d) disclosure of private deliberations of a committee where the freedom of the committee to deliberate is unlikely to be significantly affected.

2. The following kinds of unauthorised disclosure are those for which the contempt jurisdiction of the Senate should primarily be reserved, and which should therefore be raised as matters of privilege:
    - (a) disclosure of documents or evidence submitted to a committee where the committee has deliberately decided to treat the documents or evidence as in camera material, for the protection of witnesses or others, or because disclosure would otherwise be harmful to the public interest;
    - (b) disclosure of documents prepared by a committee where that involves disclosure of material of the kind specified in paragraph (a);
    - (c) disclosure of private deliberations of a committee where that involves disclosure of that kind of material, or significantly impedes the committee's freedom to deliberate.
  3. An unauthorised disclosure not falling into the categories in guidelines 1 and 2 should not be raised as a matter of privilege unless it involves actual or potential substantial interference with the work of a committee or of the Senate.
  4. When considering any unauthorised disclosure of material in the possession of a committee, the committee should consider whether there was any substantive reason for not publishing that material.
- (4) Before deciding to raise a matter of privilege involving possible unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, any committee may seek the guidance of the Committee of Privileges as to whether a matter should be pursued. If the committee decides that such a matter should be raised, it must consult with the Committee of Privileges before taking the matter further.
  - (5) When applying this resolution a committee shall have regard to the matters set out in paragraphs 3.43 to 3.59 of the 122nd Report of the Committee of Privileges, June 2005.

*(Sessional order agreed to on 6 October 2005 adopted as an order of continuing effect on 17 September 2007.)*

## **Meeting of Senate**

### **\*5 Next meeting of Senate—Routine of business—Variation**

- (1) That the Senate meet on Wednesday, 13 February, at 9.30 am.
- (2) That, recognising the historic importance of a National Apology to the Stolen Generations, the first item of business after prayers shall be consideration of government business notice of motion no. 1 proposing a National Apology to the Stolen Generations.
- (3) That only the leaders of each party represented in the Senate may speak to the motion, and that each leader may speak for no more than 20 minutes.
- (4) That, immediately after all of the leaders have spoken, the question for the resolution shall be put.
- (5) That consideration of matters of public interest not occur at 12.45 pm, and that consideration of government business continue till 2 pm.

*(Agreed to 12 February 2008.)*

## Orders for production of documents

### 6 Family and Community Services—Housing Assistance agreements—Order for production of documents

- (1) That the Senate:
- (a) notes that the Housing Assistance (Form of Agreement) Determination 2003 in Schedule 1, subsections 4(33) to 4(36) requires states to report on expenditure and progress towards their respective bilateral agreements to the Commonwealth within 6 months after the end of each grant year;
  - (b) orders that there be laid on the table, no later than 3.30 pm on 12 May 2005, all reports provided by the states and territories to the Commonwealth under those provisions for the financial year 2003-04; and
  - (c) orders that all reports provided by the states and territories to the Commonwealth under those provisions be tabled in the Senate within 5 sittings days, or one calendar month, after receipt (whichever is the later), and that the Senate be notified in writing by the Minister for Family and Community Services within 5 sitting days of the expiration of the 6 months if reports have not been provided within the required 6 months.
- (2) That this order is of continuing effect.  
*(Motion of Senator Bartlett agreed to 12 May 2005.)*

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## CONTINGENT NOTICES OF MOTION

### Auditor-General's reports—Consideration

- 1 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on the President presenting a report of the Auditor-General on any day or notifying the Senate that such a report had been presented under standing order 166)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion to take note of the report and any senator speaking to it for not more than 10 minutes, with the total time for the debate not to exceed 60 minutes.

### Conduct of business

- 2 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving a motion to provide for the consideration of any matter.

- 3 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate or to provide for the consideration of any matter.

### **Government documents**

- 4 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on the Senate proceeding to the consideration of government documents)—That so much of the standing orders relating to the consideration of government documents be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order in which the documents are called on by the President.

### **Limitation of time**

- Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

- 5 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion that a bill be considered an urgent bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent debate taking place on the motion.
- 6 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion to specify time to be allotted to the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent the motion being debated without limitation of time and each senator speaking for the time allotted by standing orders.
- 7 To move (contingent on the chair declaring that the time allotted for the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill, has expired)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent further consideration of the bill, or the stage of the bill, without limitation of time or for a specified period.

### **Matters of urgency**

- 8 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving an amendment to the motion.

- 9 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving an amendment to the motion.

### **Order of business**

- 10 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on the President proceeding to the placing of business on any day)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order of business on the *Notice Paper*.

### **Questions without notice**

- 11 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on a minister at question time on any day asking that further questions be placed on notice)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion that, at question time on any day, questions may be put to ministers until 28 questions, including supplementary questions, have been asked and answered.

### **Statements**

- 12 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to make a statement to the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent that senator making that statement.



## **Tabling of documents**

13 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**

**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**

**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**

**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**

**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to table a document in the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving that the document be tabled.

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## **TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES**

Senators Barnett, Bartlett, Bishop, Carol Brown, Chapman, Forshaw, Hutchins, Kirk, Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, Marshall, Moore, Murray, Troeth and Watson

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## **CATEGORIES OF COMMITTEES**

### **Standing Committees**

▪ **Legislative and General Purpose**

Community Affairs

Economics

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Finance and Public Administration

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

▪ **Legislative Scrutiny**

Regulations and Ordinances

Scrutiny of Bills

▪ **Standing (Domestic)**

Appropriations and Staffing

House

Library

Privileges

Procedure

Publications

Selection of Bills

Senators' Interests

**Joint Committees**▪ **Statutory**

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity  
 Australian Crime Commission  
 Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings  
 Corporations and Financial Services  
 Intelligence and Security  
 Public Accounts and Audit  
 Public Works

Details appear in the following section, with committees listed in alphabetical order.

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## COMMITTEES

**Appropriations and Staffing—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/APP\\_CTTE/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/APP_CTTE/index.htm)

*Members*

The President (*Chairman*), the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

**Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/aclei\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/aclei_ctte/index.htm)

**Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc_ctte/index.htm)

**Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcbpp/index.htm>

*Members*

The President and the Speaker

**Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Health and Ageing

*Members*

Senators Adams, Boyce, Carol Brown, Humphries, Lundy, Moore and Polley

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Fifield, Heffernan, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood, Watson

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**Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/corporations\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/corporations_ctte/index.htm)

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**Economics—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Treasury; Industry, Tourism and Resources

*Members*

Senators Bishop, Bushby, Campbell, Eggleston, Hurley, Joyce and Webber

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Fifield, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson

*Report presented*

- \* Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2007 and National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007—Interim report (*presented to the President on 11 February 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)
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**Employment, Workplace Relations and Education—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Employment and Workplace Relations; Education, Science and Training

*Members*

Senators Boyce, Campbell, Fisher, Marshall, Sterle, Watson and Wortley

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Heffernan, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth and Trood

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**Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Environment and Water Resources; Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

*Members*

Senators Birmingham, Kemp, Lundy, McEwen, Parry, Webber and Wortley

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Fifield, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson

**Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance and Administration; Human Services

*Members*

Senators Carol Brown, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Moore, Polley and Watson

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth and Trood

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT\\_CTTE/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT_CTTE/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Foreign Affairs and Trade; Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

*Members*

Senators Bishop, Cormann, Forshaw, Hogg, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen and Trood

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Fifield, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth and Watson

*Report presented*

\* The changing nature of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations—Interim report (presented to the President on 19 October 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008)

**House—Standing Committee**

*Members*

The President (*Chair*) and the Deputy President

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**Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/index.htm>

(formerly the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD; name amended 2 December 2005 pursuant to item 39 in Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Act 2005)

*Report presented*

- \* Review of the re-listing of three terrorist organisations (*presented to the Deputy President on 27 September 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)
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**Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Attorney-General; Immigration and Citizenship

*Members*

Senators Barnett, Crossin, Fisher, Kirk, McLucas, Marshall and Trood

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth and Watson

*Report presented*

- \* Crimes Legislation Amendment (Child Sex Tourism Offences and Related Measures) Bill 2007 [Provisions] (*presented to the Deputy President on 10 October 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)
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**Library—Standing Committee**

*Members*

The President (*Chair*)

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**Privileges—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/priv\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/priv_ctte/index.htm)

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**Procedure—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/proc\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/proc_ctte/index.htm)

*Members*

The Deputy President (*Chair*), the President, the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

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**Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm>

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**Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc/index.htm>

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**Publications—Standing Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/publ/index.htm>

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**Regulations and Ordinances—Legislative Scrutiny Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/regord\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/regord_ctte/index.htm)

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**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Transport and Regional Services; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

*Members*

Senators Heffernan, Hutchins, Hurley, McGauran, Nash, O'Brien and Sterle

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, Mason, Minchin, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson.

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**Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/scrutiny/index.htm>

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**Selection of Bills—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/selectionbills\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/selectionbills_ctte/index.htm)

*Members*

The Government Whip (*Chair*), the Opposition Whip, the Australian Democrats Whip, the Nationals Whip, the Australian Greens Whip and the Family First Party Whip

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**Senators' Interests—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/interests\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/interests_ctte/index.htm)

*Notifications of alterations of interests*

\* Register of senators' interests, incorporating statements of registrable interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 19 June 2007 and 7 December 2007 (*presented to the Deputy President on 11 December 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

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**SENATE APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AUTHORITIES**

**Advisory Council on Australian Archives**

Senator Faulkner (*reappointed 20 June 2005, with effect from 27 June 2005, for a period of 3 years*).

**Council of the National Library of Australia**

Senator Trood (*appointed 13 June 2007, for a period of 3 years*).

**Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust**

Senators Faulkner and Watson (*appointed 1 July 2005 and 10 February 1994, respectively*).

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**HARRY EVANS**  
Clerk of the Senate

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## MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION

Ministers	Representing
<b>Senator the Honourable Christopher Evans (<u>Chris</u>)</b> <i>Minister for Immigration and Citizenship</i> <i>Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Prime Minister Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Minister for Housing Minister for Sport
<b>Senator the Honourable John Faulkner</b> <i>Special Minister of State</i> <i>Cabinet Secretary</i> <i>Vice-President of the Executive Council</i>	Minister for Trade Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister for Defence Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
<b>Senator the Honourable Stephen Conroy</b> <i>Minister for Broadband, Communications and the            Digital Economy</i> <i>Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Treasurer Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Assistant Treasurer
<b>Senator the Honourable Kim Carr</b> <i>Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and            Research</i>	Minister for Education Minister for Resources and Energy Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
<b>Senator the Honourable Penelope Wong (<u>Penny</u>)</b> <i>Minister for the Climate Change and Water</i>	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Minister for Social Inclusion Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Minister for the Status of Women Minister for Employment Participation Minister for Youth
<b>Senator the Honourable Joseph Ludwig (<u>Joe</u>)</b> <i>Minister for Human Services</i> <i>Manager of Government Business in the Senate</i>	Minister for Health and Ageing Attorney-General Minister for Home Affairs Minister for Ageing
<b>Senator the Honourable Nicholas Sherry (<u>Nick</u>)</b> <i>Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law</i>	Minister for Finance and Deregulation Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister for Tourism Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Parliamentary Secretaries	
<b>Senator the Honourable Ursula Stephens</b> <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector</i> <i>Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion</i>	
<b>Senator the Honourable Jan McLucas</b> <i>Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing</i>	

*In those instances where Senators prefer to be known by other than their first name, the preferred name is underlined.*



## A GUIDE TO THE NOTICE PAPER

The *Notice Paper* is issued each sitting day and contains details of current business before the Senate. Its structure is based on four main types of business, as follows:

**Matters of privilege** take precedence over all other business and are listed at the beginning of the *Notice Paper* when they arise. They consist of notices of motion which the President has determined warrant such precedence and any orders relating to adjourned debates on such motions.

**Business of the Senate** has precedence over government and general business for the day on which it is listed. It includes disallowance motions, orders of the day for the presentation of committee reports, motions to refer matters to standing committees, motions for leave of absence for a senator and motions concerning the qualification of a senator.

**Government business** is business initiated by a minister including the consideration of government legislation. It takes precedence over general business except for a period of 2½ hours each week set aside on Thursdays for general business.

**General business** is all other business initiated by senators who are not ministers. It takes precedence over government business only as described above.

Within each of these categories, business consists of notices of motion and orders of the day:

**Notices of motion** are statements that senators intend to move particular motions on the days indicated. They are entered on the *Notice Paper* in the order given and may be given jointly by two or more senators. Notices of motion are usually considered before orders of the day.

**Orders of the day** are items of business which the Senate has ordered to be considered on particular days, usually arising from adjourned debates on matters (including legislation) or requirements to present committee reports.

On days other than Thursdays, the *Notice Paper* records all business of the Senate and government business items, but includes only new items of general business from the previous sitting day. On Thursdays, business relating to the consideration of government documents, committee reports and government responses to committee reports is also published.

Other sections in the *Notice Paper* are as follows:

**Orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses**—adjourned debates on motions to consider or adopt committee reports and government responses. These orders may be considered for one hour on Thursdays at the conclusion of general business. New items appear on the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

**Orders of the day relating to government documents**—adjourned debates on motions to take note of government documents. Such orders arise from consideration of the government documents presented on a particular day and include consideration of any documents not reached on the day. They are also listed for consideration for up to one hour on Thursdays during the consideration of general business. New items appear in the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

**Business for future consideration** lists any notice of motion or order of the day to be considered on a specific day in the future; for example, a committee report ordered to be presented on a specific date, or a notice of motion given for a day other than the next day of sitting.

**Bills referred to committees** lists all bills or provisions of bills currently being considered by committees.

**Questions on notice** includes the text of new questions on notice and lists the numbers of unanswered questions.

**Orders of the Senate** includes orders of short-term duration such as orders for production of documents and those relating to days of sitting for a period of sittings.

**Contingent notices of motion** are statements of intention by senators that, contingent on a specified occurrence, they may move a motion, usually to suspend standing orders. They are grouped by subject.

**Temporary chairs of committees** is a daily list of all senators appointed to take the chair in the absence of the President or Deputy President.

**Categories of committees** is a daily list, categorised by type, of Senate and joint committees. Details of each committee appear in the committee section.

**Committees** lists all of Senate and joint committees, including membership, current inquiries and reports presented on or since the previous sitting day.

**Senate appointments to statutory authorities** lists the statutory authorities on which the Senate is represented and details of representation.

**Ministerial representation** lists Senate ministers and the portfolios they represent.

### The ‘full’ Notice Paper

On the first day of the autumn and spring sittings a full *Notice Paper* is printed listing all outstanding business before the Senate, including the full text of all unresolved notices of motion and unanswered questions on notice. This edition is a complete reference to unresolved business from earlier in the session and is useful to keep. All business before the Senate is published daily in the full online version of the *Notice Paper*, available on ParlInfo and at: [www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/notice/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/notice/index.htm)

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Inquiries concerning the *Notice Paper* or business listed in it may be directed to the Senate Table Office on (02) 6277 3018.