

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

NOTICE PAPER

No. 10

TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2008

The Senate meets at 12.30 pm

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

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Notice of Motion

Notice given 20 March 2008

- *1 **Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion):** To move—That the Road User Charge Determination 2008 (No. 1), made under the *Fuel Tax Act 2006*, be disallowed. [F2008L00713]

Fifteen sitting days remain, including today, to resolve the motion or the instrument will be deemed to have been disallowed.

Orders of the Day

- *1 **Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008.

- 2 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Orders of the Day

- 1 **Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008—**
(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Ludwig, 13 March 2008*).
- 2 **Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008—**(*Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Wong*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Wong, 13 March 2008*).
- 3 **Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008—**(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Carr*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*19 March 2008*).
- *4 **Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008—**(*Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Conroy*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*20 March 2008*).

5 Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry), in continuation, 17 March 2008*).

***6 Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Amendment Bill 2008—(Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Conroy)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*20 March 2008*).

7 Statute Law Revision Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Carr)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*19 March 2008*).

8 Governor-General's Opening Speech

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Wortley—That the following address-in-reply be agreed to:

To His Excellency the Governor-General

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament (*Senator Fisher, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

9 Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008—(Special Minister of State, Senator Faulkner)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Faulkner, 11 March 2008*).

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

Order of the Day relating to Committee Reports and Government Responses

***1 Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—A decent quality of life: Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Moore)—That the Senate take note of the report (*Senator Boyce, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Notices of Motion

Notice given 13 February 2008

- 18 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes:
- (i) the contempt in which the Australian Labor Party (ALP) has historically held upper houses around the country, including a platform to abolish all upper houses until 1979, the abolition of the upper house in Queensland and a current policy to abolish the South Australian Legislative Council,
 - (ii) that the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) has reduced the number of sitting weeks in the Senate in 2008, and
 - (iii) that the Deputy Prime Minister (Ms Gillard) has already demanded legislation be passed without adequate scrutiny in the Senate; and
- (b) given the above, condemns the Rudd Labor Government for continuing the ALP's legacy of inherent contempt for the Senate.

Notice given 11 March 2008

- 29 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Education, no later than 4.30 pm on Thursday, 20 March 2008, a copy of the Department of Education, Science and Training review of private school funding report.
- 37 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes:
- (i) that Amnesty International, CARE International UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Medecins du Monde UK, Oxfam, Save the Children UK and Trocaire, in the week beginning 2 March 2008 said that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is now worse than it was at any time since Israel occupied the Palestinian territories in 1967,
 - (ii) that those organisations in the week beginning 9 March 2008 described Israel's blockade of Gaza as a collective punishment of the entire Gazan population of 1.5 million and said it was unacceptable and illegal,
 - (iii) that the situation has worsened since Israel imposed the severe restrictions over the Gaza Strip and hindered the movement of residents and goods,
 - (iv) that poverty levels in the Gaza Strip are rising and that hospitals are suffering 12 hour power cuts each day while water and sewage systems are close to collapse,

- (v) that the United Nations (UN) emergency relief coordinator in Gaza says medical services are deteriorating, private industry has more or less collapsed, hospitals lack sufficient beds, drugs, resuscitation devices, needles and blood to meet the demand and more than 80 per cent of the population are receiving emergency rations from UN agencies as their main source of food,
 - (vi) that 40 per cent of the Gaza population has access to water for only a few hours a day and that municipal authorities lack the fuel and spare parts needed to maintain water delivery infrastructure which could collapse at any time and that 40 million litres of raw or partially-treated sewage is being pumped into the Mediterranean Sea every day with long-term risks to the environment, and
 - (vii) that the International Save the Children Alliance advised that hundreds of thousands of children are among those most at risk in the crisis in Gaza with increased levels of chronic disease, anaemia, diarrhoea and malnutrition in children under 5 years of age;
- (b) urges the Government to work with the international community and parties to the conflict to, as a matter of urgency:
- (i) establish procedures to manage the crossings and re-establish full humanitarian and commercial access to Gaza,
 - (ii) enforce the full implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, which was announced by the United States Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, in Jerusalem on 15 November 2005,
 - (iii) develop a strategy that ensures the protection of children and other civilians in Gaza, while negotiations continue for an end to the violence and a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, and
 - (iv) increase the levels of humanitarian aid in Gaza to reflect the severity of need; and
- (c) considers that celebrating the 60th anniversary of Israel's statehood should not be interpreted as endorsement of action that gave rise to such crises or approval of the failure to deliver peace and a separate state for Palestinians, an objective that appears less likely now than at any time in the past 60 years.

41 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* to repeal provisions relating to group voting tickets and provide for preferential above-the-line voting, and for related purposes. ***Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008.***

Notice given 18 March 2008

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

- (a) notes the comments by the Minister for Education (Ms Gillard) that she is considering extending the Federal Government's method of funding private schools on a socioeconomic basis to the public school system;
- (b) recognises the limitations of this model, as evidenced by the fact that 51 per cent of non-government schools receive more money than they are entitled to on the basis of their socioeconomic status (SES) score and that many issues affect the resourcing needs of schools, aside from socioeconomic status; and

- (c) urges the Government to commit to ensuring that any changes to funding models for public schools:
 - (i) guarantee that no school will lose money, as was promised when the SES model was introduced for private schools funding,
 - (ii) takes into account the proportion of students who have special learning needs as a result of:
 - (A) intellectual or physical disabilities,
 - (B) learning difficulties or disabilities,
 - (C) a language background other than English,
 - (D) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background,
 - (E) geographic isolation, and
 - (F) disruptive behaviour, and
 - (iii) raise the level of per capita funding for primary schools to that of secondary schools in recognition of the importance of early learning.

Notice given 19 March 2008

- 63 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Smith) to seek the abandonment of the death sentence in China.

Notice given 20 March 2008

- *64 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) in March 2005, at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) held in Seoul, representatives from 52 member and associate member countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) embraced the approach of Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth),
 - (ii) a green growth approach requires that environmental and ecological consideration must be integral to policy planning to ensure long-term economic and social viability, and economic growth should not be measured in gross domestic product alone but also in a set of eco-indicators,
 - (iii) the MCED adopted a Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2010 and the Seoul Initiative on Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth),
 - (iv) UNESCAP's member and associated countries have repeatedly confirmed their commitment to green growth since 2005 and have requested that the UNESCAP Secretariat continue to act as a catalyst for a conducive environment for green growth through developing the conceptual and analytical framework and by providing capacity building support to governments,
 - (v) the green growth approach has become prominent in the region and has received highest political acceptance by heads of state of UNESCAP member states and, in February 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that the world is on the cusp of 'the age of green economics', and

- (vi) Australia signed the regional implementation plan but has since failed to attend green growth policy dialogues and Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth forums; and
 - (b) calls on the Government to:
 - (i) immediately re-engage with UNESCAP's initiatives to promote green growth principles in our region, and
 - (ii) send delegates from the Department of the Treasury and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to future relevant meetings.
- *65 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate calls on the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) and future Prime Ministers to refrain from engaging Australia in war without first gaining the agreement of the Australian Parliament.
- *66 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—
- (1) That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.
 - (2) That the Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 be restored to the *Notice Paper* and that consideration of the bill resume at the stage reached in the 40th Parliament.
- *67 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Smith) to seek the abandonment of the death sentence, including that on Australian citizen Ms Jasmine Luong in Vietnam.

Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

1 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

2 National Native Title Tribunal—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

3 Sydney Harbour Federation Trust—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

4 Central Land Council—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

5 Northern Land Council—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

6 Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

- 7 **Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2006-07**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).
- 8 **Department of Immigration and Citizenship—Report for 2006-07**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).
- 9 **Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).
- 10 **Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of appropriateness of detention arrangements—Personal identifiers 221/07 to 346/07—Government response to reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, dated 12 February 2008**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).
- 11 **Australia Business Arts Foundation Ltd—Financial statements for 2006-07**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).
- 12 **Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997—Live-stock mortalities during exports by sea—Report for the period 1 July to 31 December 2007**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

Orders of the Day

- 2 **Qantas Sale (Keep Jetstar Australian) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**
Second reading (*restored 13 February 2008*).
- 3 **Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**
Second reading (*restored 13 February 2008*).
- 4 **Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Bartlett)**
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).
- 10 **Marriage (Relationships Equality) Amendment Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Nettle)**
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Nettle, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).
- 11 **Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill 2006 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison, Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown and Senators Bishop and Bartlett)**
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).

- 12 **Constitution Alteration (Appropriations for the Ordinary Annual Services of the Government) 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Murray and Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 13 **Constitution Alteration (Electors' Initiative, Fixed Term Parliaments and Qualification of Members) 2000 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 14 **Electoral (Greater Fairness of Electoral Processes) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 15 **Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 16 **Euthanasia Laws (Repeal) Bill 2004 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 17 **Genetic Privacy and Non-discrimination Bill 1998 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 18 **Ministers of State (Post-Retirement Employment Restrictions) Bill 2002 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Stott Despoja and Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 20 **Parliamentary Charter of Rights and Freedoms Bill 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 21 **Patents Amendment Bill 1996 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 22 **Peace and Non-Violence Commission Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 23 **Privacy (Data Security Breach Notification) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 24 **Privacy (Extension to Political Acts and Practices) Amendment Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 25 **Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 26 **Public Interest Disclosures Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).

- 27 **Repatriation of Citizens Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison, and Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 28 **Republic (Consultation of the People) Bill 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 29 **Same-Sex Marriages Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Stott Despoja and Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 30 **Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison, and Senators Bartlett, Murray and Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 31 **State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 32 **Taxation Laws Amendment (Scholarships) Bill 2005 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 33 **Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 34 **Uranium Mining in or near Australian World Heritage Properties (Prohibition) Bill 1998 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 35 **Workplace Relations (Guaranteeing Paid Maternity Leave) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 36 **Rural and Regional Australia**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate—
- (a) notes:
 - (i) the challenges facing Australia’s rural and regional communities, and
 - (ii) that the Government is showing its contempt of rural and regional Australia, including through cuts to rural and regional funding programs; and
 - (b) calls on the Labor Government to continue the strong commitment of the former Coalition Government to rural and regional Australia (*Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (Senator Stephens), in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

- 37 **Special Broadcasting Service Amendment (Prohibition of Disruptive Advertising) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Allison, in continuation, 12 March 2008*).
- 38 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Zone Excision Repeal) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2006 [2008]**
Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Zone Excision Repeal) Bill 2006 [2008]—(*Senate bills*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).
- 39 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Temporary Protection Visas Repeal) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).
- 40 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Provisions Relating to Character and Conduct) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).
- 41 **Migration Legislation Amendment (End of Mandatory Detention) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).
- 43 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Access to Judicial Review of Migration Decisions) Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).
- 44 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Restoration of Rights and Procedural Fairness) Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).
- 46 **Budget and the economy**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Eggleston—That the Senate—
(a) notes:
 (i) the concern of Australians given the impending budget cuts proposed by Labor’s razor gang, and
 (ii) that Labor is showing with its backflips and ill-conceived proposals that it has no idea how to run our trillion dollar economy; and
(b) calls on Labor’s razor gang to ensure that no Australian will be worse off when the Budget is delivered in May 2008 (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas), in continuation, 13 March 2008*).
- 47 **Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government) Bill 2003 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 18 March 2008*).
- 48 **National Commissioner for Children Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 18 March 2008*).

***49 A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Improved Access to Baby Bonus) Amendment Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 20 March 2008*).

BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

May 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Economics—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on Australia's mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme.

Next day of sitting (14 May 2008)

Business of the Senate—Notice of Motion

Notice given 20 March 2008

- *1 **Senator Mason:** To move—That Amendment 2 to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines No. 1, made under section 238-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, be disallowed. [F2008L00559]

Fifteen sitting days remain, including today, to resolve the motion or the instrument will be deemed to have been disallowed.

On 15 May 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations.

On 30 May 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 Economics—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

2 Economics—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Orders of the Day

- 9 **Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Allison, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).
- 19 **National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).

On 9 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- *1 **Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on broadcasting codes of practice.

On 16 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Agricultural and Related Industries—Select Committee**
Report to be presented.
- 2 **Housing Affordability in Australia—Select Committee**
Report to be presented.
- 3 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on the Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

- 8 **Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

On 18 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on the Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

- 1 **Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding*)
Second reading (*restored 13 February 2008*).

On 23 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on the sexualisation of children in the media.
- 2 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)
- 3 **Economics—Standing Committee**
Interim report to be presented on Australia's space science and industry sector.

General Business—Order of the Day

- 5 **Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown)**
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bob Brown, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

On 24 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Standing Committees**
Reports to be presented on the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

On 26 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on mental health services in Australia.

August 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- *1 **Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on waste management in Australia and the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008.

General Business—Order of the Day

- 45 **Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 13 March 2008*).

On 12 August 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

7 **Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

On 27 August 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **State Government Financial Management—Select Committee**

Report to be presented.

On 4 September 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Report to be presented on climate change and the Australian agricultural sector.

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

Report to be presented on meat marketing.

On 16 September 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

6 **Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

On the tenth sitting day after 30 June 2008 (17 September 2008)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

*1 **Standing Committees**

Reports to be presented on annual reports tabled by 30 April 2008.

On 30 September 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee**

First report to be presented.

No later than October 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Final report to be presented on Australia's space science and industry sector.

On 30 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee**

Second report to be presented.

June 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on provisions of Schedule 1 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008.

On 30 September 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee**

Third report to be presented.

On 30 March 2010

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee**

Fourth report to be presented.

On 30 September 2010

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee**

Final report to be presented.

BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Committee (*referred 14 February 2008; reporting date: 18 June 2008*).

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 19 March 2008; reporting date: 16 September 2008*).

Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008

Referred to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee (*referred 20 March 2008; reporting date: August 2008*).

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions]‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Committee (*referred 19 March 2008; interim report presented 7 May 2008*).

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*).

Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date varied 18 March 2008; reporting date: 12 August 2008*).

Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*).

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date varied 18 March 2008; reporting date: 23 June 2008*).

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008*).

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008

Referred to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee (*referred 20 March 2008; interim report presented 7 May 2008*).

Further information about the progress of these bills may be found in the Senate Daily Bills Update at www.aph.gov.au/parlinfo/billsnet/billsupd.pdf.

‡ *Reference adopted by the Senate following a recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee.*

BILLS NEGATIVED

Government bills

Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2008

Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Repeal Bill 2008

Second reading negatived, 19 March 2008.

Private senators' bills

Migration Legislation Amendment (Complementary Protection Visas) Bill 2006 [2008]

Second reading negatived, 20 March 2008.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions remaining unanswered

Question Nos, as shown, from 7 to 410 remain unanswered for 30 or more days (see standing order 74(5)). Questions marked (†) were placed on notice after the last sitting day but have been answered.

Notice given 12 February 2008

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 (*transferred to the Minister for Climate Change and Water on 3 April 2008*)—

- (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.

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.

17 Minister representing the Treasurer

19 Special Minister of State

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

29 Minister for Climate Change and Water

30 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

32 Minister for Human Services

33 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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

45 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law

46 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing

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

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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

131 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

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

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 (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations on 28 March 2008*)
- 147 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 3 April 2008*)
- 149 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 150 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 151 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations on 28 March 2008*)
- 152 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Cormann: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 189-224) (*question nos 189-200 and 202-224 transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation on 11 March 2008*)—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.

- 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
- 231 Special Minister of State
- 237 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 244 Minister for Human Services
- 245 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 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
- 254 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations on 28 March 2008*)
- 257 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 259 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations on 28 March 2008*)

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.

Notice given 13 February 2008

- 281 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—Are banks with an Australian banking licence permitted to hold data or records on accounts in associated banks or subsidiaries domiciled in known tax havens.
- 283 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—
- (1) Did the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) ever place any restrictions, formally or informally, on Mr Murray Nugent or the companies he was involved with, specifically Reward Insurance Ltd and Australian Home Warranty Pty Ltd, on writing licensed builder home warranty insurance (LBHWI) from 1 July 1999 onwards.
 - (2) Can the Minister confirm that Mr Nugent continued to write LBHWI through Rewards Insurance Ltd after 1 July 1999.
 - (3) Can the Minister confirm that APRA has the power to disqualify an individual from holding roles within the Australian insurance industry; if so, why has APRA never moved to disqualify Mr Nugent from operating in the insurance industry.
 - (4) If Reward Insurance Ltd was under the minimum capital requirements for insurance companies from 2001 onwards, why did not APRA shut the company down.
 - (5) Can an outline be provided of all investigations, recommendations and directions undertaken and instigated into Reward Insurance Ltd since 1999 by: (a) APRA; and (b) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).
 - (6) Can the Minister confirm that investigations by APRA and ASIC into Reward Insurance Ltd and Mr Nugent have stalled since May 2005; if so, why.

Notice given 20 February 2008

- 289 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the President of the Senate—
- (1) Can a list be provided of all contractors responsible for maintenance of the public spaces, offices, gardens and surrounds of Parliament House between 1998 and 2002.
 - (2) Can the process by which these contractors were appointed be outlined.

Notice given 21 February 2008

- 295 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) What data does the Government have on the prevalence of people living with chronic wounds.
 - (2) What are the costs to the health system of chronic wound care.
 - (3) How much funding does the Government provide for wound management aids or appliances.
 - (4) What wound management technology does the Government fund.
 - (5) (a) How much does the Government spend on educating the medical profession on appropriate wound management techniques; and (b) how is this funding distributed.

(6) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve chronic wound care.

297 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to the plan for the establishment of ‘GP superclinics’:

- (1) Will there be provision for salaried general practitioners (GPs).
- (2) (a) What other health professionals will be employed in the superclinics; and (b) will they be employed on a fee-for-service or salaried basis.
- (3) Will the superclinics employ nurse practitioners; if so: (a) what role will they play; (b) what services will they provide; and (c) how will they be remunerated.
- (4) What incentives will be offered to encourage the use of preventative services in the superclinics.

Notice given 27 February 2008

303 **Senator Kemp:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Can a coordinated time series be provided of all expenditure, grants and membership subscriptions, made by every government department and agency to the United Nations (UN), UN agencies and UN-associated entities (including peacekeeping operations) for the past 4 financial years, indicating the expenditures made by each department and agency and the UN agency or association that received it (including all regular budget, extra-budgetary and peacekeeping expenditure).

304 **Senator Kemp:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Can a coordinated table be provided of all expenditure, grants and membership subscriptions, made by every government department and agency to the United Nations (UN), UN agencies and UN-associated entities (including peacekeeping operations) for the past financial year, indicating the expenditures made by each department and agency and the UN agency or association that received it (including all regular budget, extra-budgetary and peacekeeping expenditure).

305 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation on 19 March 2008*)—With reference to the reduction of the Government vehicle fleet by 1 500 vehicles since 2001:

- (1) How was this reduction achieved.
- (2) Are efforts being made to achieve further reductions; if so, what are these efforts.

308 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs—Can the following details be provided for each of the compensation payments made to Australian veterans since 1996: (a) the date of the payment; (b) the payment amount; (c) the nature of the compensable injury; (d) the legislative vehicle through which payment was effected; (e) whether the case was the subject of appeal and the out of that appeal; and (f) the cost of legal services associated with the case.

Notice given 4 March 2008

- 344 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—Given: (a) the announcement of the then Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on 20 February 2007 that conventional, incandescent light bulbs are to be phased out over the next 3 years and replaced with energy-saving globes; (b) the release of a discussion paper on 17 December 2007 on the proposed phase-out of incandescent bulbs and a minimum energy standard of 15 lumens per watt by 2010 and 20 lumens per watt by 2013; (c) that market-proven compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) represent more than 15 per cent of the market share, with sales increasing rapidly and exponentially; (d) that CFLs are typically 60 lumens per watt, which is four times more efficient than the cut-off threshold proposed in the discussion paper; (e) that the additional benefits of high efficiency lighting are the energy savings and longer lifetime; and (f) that compared to incandescent lamps, high efficiency lighting saves in the order of \$50 to \$100 over its lifetime, has, on average, a 3 year payback and delivers a very competitive greenhouse abatement cost of \$3 per tonne:
- (1) What policy options, other than the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), were considered.
 - (2) Was a simplified energy label, supported by government promotion of high efficiency lighting solutions or rebates for efficient lamps, considered.
 - (3) What role did industry play in forming this standard.
 - (4) Given that setting a higher MEPS level and faster timetable or faster MEPS would be consistent with the Minister's policy objectives, why is a lower and slower MEPS being implemented.
- 348 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on 26 March 2008*)—Given that: (a) the transport and stationary energy sectors are the largest greenhouse emitting sectors in Australia; (b) the stationary energy and other sectors have much less capacity for reductions than the transport sector; (c) motor vehicles are responsible for approximately 80 per cent of transport emissions, with public transport responsible for 3 per cent; (d) with oil approaching \$US100 a barrel, demand for mass transport has risen by 20 per cent since the beginning of 2007 and is likely to rise another 10 per cent in 2008:
- (1) What plan is in place to achieve cuts from the transport sector by 2010.
 - (2) What strategic direction has been provided to state governments in line with stated greenhouse emission cuts.
 - (3) What strategic direction and actions are being taken to develop alternative fuels.
 - (4) What plans are there to abolish tax concessions and subsidies for road transport.
- 353 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (*transferred to the Minister for Climate Change and Water on 5 March 2008*)—
- (1) With reference to media reports that, since the commencement of Murray Darling Basin permanent water allocation trading, the cost of permanent water allocations has risen by 2 000 per cent over the past 2 years, what is the trend and the cost increase since the commencement of water trading.

- (2) Acknowledging that trading occurs within the confines of the basin cap, to what extent is water trading increasing or decreasing the demand on the river relative to the cap.
- (3) What is the incidence of 'sleeper' water allocations (that is, water allocations that have been inactive or underutilised coming to market), water theft, evaporation and other losses that increase the demand on the river and that have otherwise not been accounted for.
- (4) What compliance measures are being considered to enforce allocations or adjust for unanticipated losses.
- (5) (a) Has there been any purchase of permanent water allocations for the environment; (b) what has been the level of these purchases; (c) have they been purchased from the market; (d) were they purchased from willing sellers; and (e) how is it ascertained that these sellers were willing.
- (6) What is the trend of water allocations being traded from grazing, farming or horticultural enterprises to managed investment schemes.
- (7) What level of trading is occurring between districts or between states.
- (8) What coordination is there between state governments.
- (9) What is the level of participation of non-water users (speculative investors, state governments or others) within the market.
- (10) What level of regulation applies to the water market.
- (11) What review has been undertaken of the workings of the water market.
- (12) Has there been any analysis of the financial impact, including the ability to pass on costs to end users by farming type (for example, graziers, dairy farmers, horticulturists).
- (13) (a) What assistance to farmers and communities experiencing hardship due to water price increases, reduced water allocations or a loss of productive farming capacity is being progressed; and (b) could this include interest rate relief, income support and/or walk-off and adjustment packages.
- (14) What partnership programs, between government and farmers, exist for the transition to lower water use practices, infrastructure improvement or other drought-proofing activities.
- (15) If it is commonplace for markets, such as the energy market, to be regulated or administered, has the appointment of a regulator of the water market with responsibility to administer, oversee and intervene in the market to achieve economic and community, social and environmental outcomes and with the power to suspend or restrict trading, prevent profiteering or speculation by non-water users, determine carryover, water banking provisions and emergency water supply measures and make all decisions transparent and in full consultation with state governments and stakeholders been considered.

Notice given 7 March 2008

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

- (1) With reference to the current reassessment by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) of its advice concerning the funding of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) for melanoma, colorectal and ovarian cancer, have the MSAC recommendations for public funding for

these indications been received by the Minister; if so, what is the timeline for approval by the Minister.

- (2) With reference to the advice provided by Mr Kingdon, First Assistant Secretary of the Medical Benefits Division, during an additional estimates hearing of the Community Affairs Committee that the 2007 recommendations 'went through an earlier process, but because we had an intervening election we had to restart again' (Committee *Hansard*, 20 February 2008, p. 59P), why was it necessary to 'restart again' and what bearing did the election have on the advice provided.
- (3) Given that the MSAC's website indicates assessments will be completed in 56 weeks, yet the MSAC had already assessed these indications in 2000 or 2001 and the MSAC signed off on the protocols used for collecting the data that was presented for review in 2006, why did the reassessment of these indications take essentially the same length of time as normal assessments.
- (4) On what dates were these indications considered by the MSAC and the MSAC Advisory Committee meetings.
- (5) With reference to the proposed reassessment by the MSAC of evidence concerning the funding of PET for sarcoma, lymphoma, brain tumours and oesophageal, head, neck and cervical cancers: (a) has the data on all these indications been collected; (b) where data has been collected, which indications are currently being considered by the MSAC; and (c) when will the MSAC's advice be provided to the Minister.
- (6) Will the MSAC be preparing advice concerning the funding of PET for: (a) indications included under the current ministerial determinations but where data collection protocols have not been developed; (b) sub-groups of patients included within the current indications but not evaluated by the data collection protocols, for example, high grade lymphoma and Hodgkins disease; and (c) indications that have not been previously considered by the MSAC, such as breast cancer, the evaluation of lung cancer patients after primary treatment, therapeutic monitoring and tumours in childhood and infancy.
- (7) In each case referred to in paragraph (6), if not, why not.
- (8) If it is the case that the Government does not normally fund projects like the current PET data collection: (a) what is the estimated cost of such data collection (not including the cost of the PET scans); (b) what unique data has been provided by the collection process; (c) is it the case that the data collection protocols did not include a methodology for assessing costs and effectiveness; if so, why, given the fact that the MSAC's original assessment of PET did not find sufficient evidence to draw conclusions about the clinical or cost effectiveness of PET.

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

- (1) How many new surgical procedures have been put to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) for consideration since 2004.
- (2) (a) Of these procedures, how many have been recommended by the MSAC to the Minister for funding; and (b) of these recommended procedures: (i) how many have been approved, and (ii) which procedures have not been approved.

- (3) (a) Which surgical procedures remain to be assessed by the MSAC; and (b) of these procedures, which have been with the MSAC for more than 16 months and what are the reasons for the lack of progress on the assessments.

Notice given 12 March 2008

369 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) At any point during the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, in Sydney, were the spouses of the APEC leaders transported by a coach with a parquet floor; if so: (a) where did the coach come from and how was it transported to Sydney; (b) why was it deemed necessary for the leaders' spouses to be transported in this manner; and (c) who made the decision about what level of luxury the leaders' spouses would travel in.
- (2) What were the costs and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transport of the coach to Sydney.
- (3) Can descriptions be provided of the other features of the vehicles that the leaders' spouses travelled in.

Notice given 17 March 2008

373 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—Given: (a) the disturbing trend of state governments taking water from agriculture and the environment and diverting it into wasteful urban areas, in preference to adopting lower cost urban water efficiency and demand management activities, occurring at a net loss to the economy through loss of productive farming capacity and consequently increased costs of agricultural products; (b) the study submitted by the Institute for Sustainable Futures to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee's inquiry into options for additional water supplies for south east Queensland, *Review of water supply-demand options for South East Queensland*, which found that water savings from demand management activities could deliver an additional 230 billion litres of water each year at a cost of \$1.15 per kilolitre, which is less than the estimated cost (between \$3.38 and \$4.65 per kilolitre) of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam, which will only deliver 70 billion litres; and (c) that a kilolitre of water used in agriculture has more potential for value adding than a kilolitre of water used inefficiently in the urban environment and that aggressive water efficiency and harvesting for urban use is cheaper and less environmentally damaging than supply options, such as the Traveston Dam in south east Queensland and the desalination project at Wonthaggi, Victoria:

- (1) What benchmarks and assessment of water have been undertaken.
- (2) (a) What assessment of water-saving potential has been undertaken; and (b) what is the current market, technological and theoretical water efficiency for Australian cities.
- (3) How would such analysis inform water efficiency targets.
- (4) What water efficiency targets are being considered.
- (5) How will the analysis and the targets inform a national water policy.
- (6) How would targets be implemented and achieved.
- (7) What priority has the Government to ensure a best practice approach to delivering aggressive water efficiencies and secure sustainable long-term water supplies for urban areas.

- (8) Have the recommendations of the report of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee, *The value of water – inquiry into Australia’s management of urban water*, tabled on 5 December 2002, been considered for adoption.
- (9) With reference to the Australian Labor Party’s election statement that there is to be an allocation for urban water efficiency, what is the implementation plan and the timeline for this.
- (10) (a) What partnerships with state government, local government and manufacturers of water efficient appliances are being set up; and (b) what is the program for minimum water performance standards for appliances.
- (11) Has the department undertaken any analysis of demand-side potential in the south east Queensland area.
- (12) Can the department verify the Queensland Government’s research which suggests that a modular desalination plant would cost only an additional 3 per cent of the \$1.6 billion that the dam would cost, while protecting threatened species habitat and preserving 10 per cent of Australia’s dairy industry.
- (13) What is the involvement of the department with the Queensland Government’s process to assess the environmental impact of the Traveston Dam.
- (14) What assessment is being undertaken by the department to identify species and habitat affected by the proposed dam.
- (15) What priority is being given to progressing urban water efficiency actions in south east Queensland and thereby avoiding of negative economic and environmental impacts that will be caused by the construction of the Traveston Dam.
- (16) Given that the Traveston Dam was deemed a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in November 2006 and that the Commonwealth has the power under the Act to stop the Traveston Dam if evidence clearly shows that there will be a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance, will the Government undertake an independent assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed dam or will it solely rely on the recommendation of the Queensland Government.
- (17) Have the recommendations contained in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee report, *Options for additional water supplies for South East Queensland*, been considered for adoption.
- (18) Was the department aware that site work associated with the construction of the dam was commenced prior to approval.
- (19) With reference to the media release of the Queensland Government Minister for Natural Resource and Water (Mr Wallace), dated 21 February 2008, which stated that the Commonwealth Government audit had found that Paradise Dam was compliant with the Act and given that the audit report found that the downstream fishway was only functional with dam capacity above 57 per cent, is the department aware that, due to water allocation commitments, the average water level will be below this level.
- (20) Is the department aware of any information to suggest that housing developers with an association to the Queensland Labor Party are purchasing land from landholders whose holdings have been resumed for, or affected by, the dam.

Notice given 19 March 2008

382 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the Prime Minister's commitment to undertake 'evidence based policy in terms of producing the best outcomes for this nation' in an interview on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's *Lateline* program on 8 November 2007, a central theme repeated by ministers of the Government:

- (1) Is the Prime Minister aware of fast growing scientific evidence that climate change is accelerating rapidly, as indicated, among other evidence, by the 23 per cent growth in spring melt of Arctic Sea ice between 2006 and 2007 and by an increase in the rate of mountain glacier melting from 30 centimetres per year between 1980 and 1999 to 1.5 metres in 2006.
- (2) Is the Prime Minister aware that, increasingly, climate scientists doubt dangerous climate change can be avoided unless abrupt reductions in carbon emissions occur in the near future, as reflected, among other evidence, by the theme of an upcoming Australian Academy of Science (AAS) conference 'Dangerous climate change: is it inevitable?'.
- (3) Is the Prime Minister aware that, in the view of climate scientists, climate change can not be halted unless critical reductions are made in carbon emissions in order to attempt to reduce the atmospheric level of carbon dioxide from current levels (of near 450 parts per million (ppm)) to about 350 ppm.
- (4) Does the Prime Minister realise that, by analogy to a medical condition where precise doses of antibiotic need to be administered in time to counter bacterial infection, the runaway climate crisis cannot be mitigated unless critical emission reductions are made in time.
- (5) Is the Prime Minister aware of the danger that, should urgent measures on mitigation not be undertaken, carbon feedback effects from warming oceans and drying biosphere can result in a climate catastrophe, which has happened several times during the recent history of Earth due to solar radiation peaks.
- (6) Is the Prime Minister aware that current rates of carbon dioxide and temperature increases are 1 to 2 orders of magnitude faster than those which occurred during the last glacial termination, between 14.5 and 11.5 thousand years ago.
- (7) Is the Prime Minister aware of the consequences of inaction, including extensive droughts, storminess, acidification of the oceans, collapse of the marine food chain and the flooding of extensive low-lying agricultural regions and coastal cities caused by rising sea levels, leading to forced evacuations of hundreds of millions of people around the world.
- (8) How does the Prime Minister view the consequences of these developments compared to the cost of fast-tracked conversion from carbon-emitting utilities to clean energy applications, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, wind, hot rocks, hydrogen and other techniques.
- (9) What is the difference in outcomes between the previous Government's denial of climate change and the current Government's apparent reluctance to follow the minimum mitigation measures recommended by the interim Garnaut report, which include emission reductions of between 25 and 40 per cent by 2020 and 90 per cent by 2050.

- (10) Will the forthcoming Treasury report on the economics of climate mitigation also consider the economics of major droughts, storms, rising sea levels and the damage to international trade systems consequent on runaway climate change.
- (11) Given that Australia is a net exporter of coal and has one of the highest per capita carbon pollution rates, is the Prime Minister willing to undertake immediate steps to promote Australian leadership in the world's attempts to stem the looming climate crisis.
- (12) Given the Prime Minister's undertaking that 'my door will always be open to men and women of goodwill who want to participate in making our country even greater in the future' in his election victory speech on 24 November 2007, is the Prime Minister willing to: (a) consider the evidence raised in the critical AAS meeting on 9 May 2008; and (b) accept a delegation of active climate scientists, in order to obtain direct advice regarding the fast deteriorating state of the atmosphere and its consequences.

Notice given 28 March 2008

*384† **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—

- (1) What is the progress of the satellite augmentation system being developed by Airservices Australia and Honeywell.
- (2) (a) Is the project still going ahead; if not, will there be a financial loss; and (b) if there will be a loss, will it be incurred by Airservices Australia and charged to the aviation industry or to the taxpayer.

Notice given 31 March 2008

*385 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—For each year, commencing from 1 July 1997, how many visas were issued in each visa class or subclass.

*386† **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to voluntary returns following an unfavourable decision on a visa application by the department, Minister or via judicial review: For each year since 2002, how many voluntary returns to country of origin have occurred when the applicant was living, at the time of the unfavourable decision: (a) in a detention facility; (b) in an alternative detention facility; (c) in community detention; and (d) out of detention.

*387 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to advertising aimed at promoting Australian citizenship and applications for Australian citizenship: For each month since January 1997, or commencing when a monthly figure can be obtained after January 1997: (a) was there any advertising to promote Australian citizenship, applying for Australian citizenship or becoming an Australian citizen; and (b) how many applications to become an Australian citizen were received.

Notice given 2 April 2008

*388† **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—In regard to the Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS):

- (1) Does the Government consider that the question on religion which asks ‘What is the person’s religion?’ presupposes that the person has religious beliefs; if not, why not; if so, is this presupposition likely to skew the answer.
- (2) Has the ABS considered alternative wording, such as ‘Does the person practice religion? – Yes/No’ and ‘If the person practices religion, which religion?’; if not, why not.
- (3) Is it the intention of the ABS, in its collection of data on religion, to determine: (a) the number of people who practice religion; (b) the number of people who identify with a religion but do not engage in religious practice, such as prayer or attending church; and/or (c) the number of people whose only religious association is that of family background.

*389 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—With reference to information provided to the Minister by Mr Matt Mushalik, a civil engineer, on 14 March 2008 that: (a) in October 2007, former Saudi Aramco chief, Sadad-Al-Husseini, reclassified 300 billion barrels of booked reserves as less useful ‘resources’, an amount 80 times the amount Shell had to downgrade in 2004, thus moving forward the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries’ oil depletion clock by 30 years; (b) 45 per cent of global oil supplies hinge on just one-fifth of a declining reserve base which depletes at a rate of 7 per cent per annum; and (c) the other 55 per cent of global oil supplies come from reserves with low annual production rates that are largely unaudited and that their true status is not known (i.e. proven, probable or possible):

- (1) Does the Minister agree with the assessment provided by Mr Mushalik; if not, why not.
- (2) Will the Government, as suggested, perform a fuel availability study for the lifespan of infrastructure projects, such as airport extensions, freeways, road tunnels, car-dependent shopping centres and subdivisions.
- (3) Will the Government, as suggested, prepare a critical path analysis of future clean energy supplies and feasible technological developments for alternative fuels; if so, when.

Notice given 3 April 2008

Senator Stott Despoja: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *390-*391)—

- (1) Is the Government engaged in the Open-ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
- (2) What is the Government’s position in relation to the protocol.
- (3) If the protocol is adopted, does the Government intend to ratify it.
- (4) Will the Government recognise the competence of the committee to develop appropriate rules of procedure to receive communications and launch inquiries rather than elaborating these principles in the text of the protocol.

- (5) Will the Government support provisions in the protocol which grant standing to non-government organisations to make submissions or file communications on behalf of individuals.
- (6) Will the Government support an ‘opt in’ approach to the protocol, whereby countries ratifying the protocol can be selective as to which rights are available for adjudication by the committee, or does the Government prefer an approach that recognises the universality and interdependence of all human rights by making all rights protected by ICESCR justiciable under the protocol.
- (7) Does the Government support the concept of a ‘margin of discretion’ as a relevant consideration in relation to the examination of a communication under the protocol.

*390 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

*391† Minister representing the Attorney-General

*392† **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs—With reference to the report, *Operation of the prohibition on interactive gambling advertisements*, dated in August 2007:

- (1) What was the outcome of the Australian Federal Police investigation following the complaint of 5 May 2006.
- (2) Since that time, what complaints have been received and what action has been taken.

*393 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—With reference to inspections of occupational health and safety (OHS) in Commonwealth workplaces and workers covered under Commonwealth agreements:

- (1) For each of the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, by state and territory, what was the number of OHS: (a) inspections; (b) investigations; (c) fines; and (d) prosecutions.
- (2) What administrative arrangements are currently in place for OHS regulation in Commonwealth workplaces and workers covered under Commonwealth agreements.

*394† **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—Can the Minister provide, for each year since 1990, by state and territory, the number of grocery stores and supermarkets in Australia.

Notice given 7 April 2008

*395 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to: (a) the Minister’s announcement on 5 February 2008, during his opening address to the workshop on Kimberley Coast Natural Values, that the Federal Government and Western Australian Government will carry out a strategic assessment to identify a site for a single common-user liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub for the Browse Basin; and (b) the completed cultural and environmental values contained within the national heritage listing of the Dampier Archipelago region:

- (1) Is the Minister or the department aware that, in 1994, the current chair of the Western Australian Government’s Northern Development Task Force, Mr Limerick, committed to carry out an assessment of the region as a result of his department’s legal intervention to stop the Dampier Archipelago being assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority (as evidenced by

the media release dated 7 October 1994, 'Pilbara industrial development', available on the website www.dampierart.net/media).

- (2) Is the Minister or the department aware that no strategic or environmental assessment of industrial development on the Dampier Archipelago was ever carried out by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority.
- (3) Does the Minister therefore consider that it is time for a rational, considered and holistic approach to planning in the Pilbara region; if so, when will a strategic assessment be sought, in conjunction with the Western Australian Government; if not, why not.
- (4) Does the Minister believe that piecemeal development, with multiple ports and processing plants along the Pilbara coast, is in the national interest; if so, why; if not, will the Minister consider an assessment as referred to in paragraph (3).
- (5) In the search for a suitable single common-user LNG hub for the Browse Basin, will the Minister rule out the use of the Dampier Archipelago as a location for a development option outside of the Kimberley region.

*396 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the strategic assessment for a gas processing hub in the Kimberley region in Western Australia which is being jointly conducted by the Federal Government and the Western Australian Government:

- (1) Can the Minister assess the proposed gas processing facility on the Meret Islands, by the Japanese company INPEX, under section 146 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, as amended in 2006, while the strategic assessment is being undertaken;
- (2) If the assessment can be made, is it the Minister's intention to do so; if so, why; if not, why not.
- (3) Will the Government conduct an environmental impact statement assessment, under the Act, of the proposals by INPEX and Woodside.
- (4) Are INPEX and/or Woodside, or their joint venture partners, funding the strategic assessment, in part, fully or indirectly through mining offsets between the proponents and the Western Australian Government or the Federal Government.
- (5) What mining or petroleum offset packages are currently being negotiated in relation to the offshore oil and gas industry in Western Australia.

*397 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy on 21 April 2008*)—In regard to formation waters produced from offshore facilities:

- (1) Can detailed information on waste waters (total produced formation waters) discharged into the ocean during 2005 and 2006 from all production platforms around the north west coast of Australia be provided, including:
 - (a) the following Timor Sea producing platforms, feeding Darwin (off the North Kimberley Coast): Puffin, Jabiru, Challis/Cassini, Blacktip (Bonaparte Basin, close to the Kimberley Coast near Berkeley), Bayu Undan, Buffalo and Laminaria East; and
 - (b) the following Pilbara producing platforms: Mutineer, Exeter, Hermes, Lambert, Angel, Cossack, Wanaea, Legendre North, Legendre South, Wandoo, Stag, North Rankin, Perseus, Echo/Yodel, Goodwyn South/Pueblo, John Brookes, East Spar, Woollybutt, Chinook/Scindian, Griffin, Yammaderry, Cowle, Crest,

Saladin, Skate, Roller, Novara, Enfield, Vincent, Eskdale, Skybarrow, Campbell, Wonnich, Endymion/Sinbad, Bambra, Linda, Harriet/Gudrun, Lee/Rose, North Alkimos, Agincourt, Gipsy, Monet/Simpson/Tanami, S. Plato, Little Sandy/Pedirka/North Pedirka/Hoover, Victoria and Double Island.

- (2) What is the total volume of waste water discharged per year.
- (3) What is the breakdown and concentration, in milligrams per litre, of heavy metal pollution index (HPI) substances in the formation water.
- (4) What mass of HPI substances, in kilograms per year, was emitted from each platform listed in paragraph (1) during 2005 and 2006.

*398 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to an answer provided by the Western Australian Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment in the Western Australian Legislative Council, the Honourable Sally Talbot MLC, to question on notice no. 5913 (Western Australian Legislative Council *Hansard*, 18 March 2008, p 1034b) and records of determinations made by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority, available on the authority's website at www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/2641_ChairDets140108.pdf, and given that Western Australian mining leases M47/112, M47/29 and M47/326, two of which straddle the national heritage listed area of the Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula), have been given environmental approval by the Western Australian Government without any environmental assessment or advice:

- (1) Was the department informed of the mining applications within the national heritage listed area: (a) if so: (i) on what date, and (ii) what action or evaluation was carried out by the department in respect of the application; or (b) if not: (i) does the Minister intend to find out why not, and/or (ii) what action does the Minister intend to take.
- (2) Does the Minister support mining activity in, or adjacent to, the area; if so, why.

*399 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In relation to the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia:

- (1) Did the Minister receive correspondence and proposals from Mr Alex Leach, a resident of Western Australia, on or about July 2007 and, subsequently, in January 2008.
- (2) What issues were raised in each piece of correspondence and each proposal.
- (3) Does the Minister consider that these proposals have merit.
- (4) Is the Minister going to respond to the correspondence and proposals; if not, why not; if so, when can Mr Leach expect a response.

*400 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—In regard to the Regional Forest Agreement for Western Australia:

- (1) Which clauses of the agreement are still operative.
- (2) Which clauses are legally binding on the Commonwealth.
- (3) Which milestones have been completed within the allocated time.
- (4) Is the agreement under review; if so: (a) by whom; (b) what are the terms of reference; (c) what is the timeline; and (d) will there be public consultation.

- *401 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—In regard to: (a) the Prime Minister's 'Standards of Ministerial Ethics' dated December 2007; (b) the appointment of the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, the Honourable Gary Gray AO MP; and (c) Mr Gray's former employment by the Woodside group of companies:
- (1) While not stated, do the Standards of Ministerial Ethics apply to parliamentary secretaries.
 - (2) Given that ministers are required to divest themselves of all shareholdings, other than through investment vehicles, such as broadly diversified superannuation funds or publicly-listed managed or trust arrangements, has Mr Gray complied with this requirement.
 - (3) Did Mr Gray accompany the Prime Minister on a tour of the Woodside offshore oil and gas platforms; if so, in what capacity.
 - (4) Given that, as reported in the *West Australian* on 22 January 2008, after touring Woodside's offshore oil and gas platforms: 'Mr Rudd said a slice of the revenue from large resources projects such as Woodside's new Pluto development would be returned to the State over time' and the 'Prime Minister pledged to work side-by-side with Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson and Infrastructure Minister [sic] Gary Gray to ensure the economic powerhouse of the nation continued to thrive', will Mr Gray, having had a past personal association with Woodside, be allowed to make decisions that affect that enterprise or will this responsibility be passed to a senior minister or a minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
 - (5) Given the arguments between Australia and East Timor over maritime boundaries, the former Government's role in encouraging Woodside in its efforts to overcome the constraints of the American sanctions law that sought to limit worldwide investment in Libya and the role Mr Gray, as director of corporate affairs for Woodside, played in these negotiations, will the Prime Minister ensure that Mr Gray takes no part in negotiations or deliberations pertaining to the oil and gas exploration and production industry.
 - (6) Given the role Mr Gray, as director of corporate affairs for Woodside, played in the negotiations on behalf of Woodside with Ms Clare Martin, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory in 2002, is it appropriate for him to be the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia.

Notice given 8 April 2008

- *402† **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—
- (1) What is the justification for the closure of the pilot-scale scour at Laverton North in Victoria.
 - (2) Why has the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Textiles and Fibre Technology division in Geelong advised its commission scouring clients to take their business offshore to Agresearch in New Zealand.
 - (3) Are all CSIRO programs/services measured in terms of whether they can return large financial gains to the CSIRO.

- (4) Why is the scour processing operation closing without any adequate economic impact assessment of the associated raw and natural fibre industry, including manufacturers and fibre producers.
- (5) Will there be an assessment of the economic and social impact of the closure of the pilot-scale scour at Laverton on producers, processors and ancillary services (e.g. the alpaca, cashmere and mohair industries, coloured wool producers, ultra-fine wool producers, Cashmere Connections (a processor); Goldfields mohair farm (a processor), long tops fibre processing (a processor) and Meskills Woolworks (a processor)); if so, will the assessment and its results be publicly available.
- (6) What is the Minister's position on textile and fibre industry research and development, in particular for raw and natural fibres of alpaca fleece, cashmere, mohair and coloured wool.
- (7) If the CSIRO pilot-scale scour is decommissioned where will the Australian research scouring work be conducted.
- (8) Will the Minister consider offering financial support to staff the pilot-scale scour at Laverton.
- (9) Does the Minister support value-adding Australian specialty natural fibres in Australia.
- (10) What commitment does the Minister have to consumers who want to purchase wholly Australian-made and processed products made from Australia's natural fibres.
- (11) What plans does the Minister have for supporting Australian value-adding if the CSIRO pilot-scale scour in Geelong is decommissioned.
- (12) If the infrastructure at the division is dismantled, where will it be disposed of.
- (13) Will the infrastructure at the division be released for tender; if so, how will potential buyers be notified.

Notice given 9 April 2008

*403 **Senator Patterson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—
With reference to the Minister's media release of 22 March 2008, 'Better protection for frail aged Australians', which states that the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency has been instructed to undertake a record 7 000 visits (up from 4 000) to aged care facilities across the nation:

- (1) Is this over and above the increased number of accreditation visits required for compliance in 2008.
- (2) Are the 3 000 extra visits solely spot checks; if so, will they be undertaken on a yearly basis.
- (3) (a) How many inspectors currently carry out spot checks; and (b) how many new inspectors will be employed to undertake the increased number of spot checks.
- (4) (a) How many staff does the agency currently employ; and (b) how many staff will the agency employ once the increased number of spot checks is underway.
- (5) What processes does the agency have in place to implement the spot checks.
- (6) Will further funding be provided in the Budget to implement the spot checks.

- *404 **Senator Patterson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—
With reference to the Minister's media release of 26 March 2008, 'Federal Government issues challenge to Opposition to support new tough measures to improve quality in Australia's aged care facilities', in which an undertaking is given to review 'the Aged Care Act to close loopholes and/or make improvements to quality in aged care', can details of the loopholes and improvements to the *Aged Care Act 1997* that are being reviewed be provided.
- *405 **Senator Patterson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—
With reference to the Minister's media release of 26 March 2008, 'Federal Government issues challenge to Opposition to support new tough measures to improve quality in Australia's aged care facilities', in which an undertaking is provided to strengthen the powers of the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency, can details be provided of how the powers of the agency will be strengthened.
- *406 **Senator Patterson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—
Given that the Minister has disputed the findings of the report into the aged care industry by Grant Thornton, commissioned by the former Government, can the Minister provide detail and analysis to demonstrate how the report is incorrect.
- *407 **Senator Patterson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—
Given that the allocation of beds in the last aged care approval round were undersubscribed in Tasmania and Western Australia: (a) what will happen to the unallocated provision of beds; and (b) what strategies does the Minister have in place to address the under-subscription of beds in Tasmania and Western Australia.
- *408 **Senator Patterson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—
Can the formula for the Commonwealth Own Purpose Outlays and a breakdown of the components for the formula be provided.
- *409 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—
- (1) As at 1 March 2008, how many people hold a current 410 visa.
 - (2) Has the department undertaken, or received from any other department, an estimate costing of a change to the 410 visa to enable holders to be eligible to take up permanent residency; if so, what is the estimate cost.

Notice given 10 April 2008

- *410 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—
- (1) Can an outline be provided, of the work currently being conducted by Australian Federal Police staff working on the case relating to Dr Mohamed Haneef, as of 4 April 2008.
 - (2) Does the work referred to in paragraph (1) relate to any new evidence since the charges against Dr Haneef were dropped.
 - (3) Can an update of the total cost of the case to date be provided.

Notice given 14 April 2008

- *411 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—
- (1) When did the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) commence its mobile news and information service.

- (2) How many subscribers are currently subscribed to the mobile news and information service.
- (3) How many subscribers did the ABC's mobile election news have as at 24 November 2007.
- (4) Was the mobile election news provided by way of SMS message updates; if so, how frequent were these updates and what was the content of each update.
- (5) If the mobile election news was not provided by way of SMS message updates: (a) how was the service provided; (b) how frequently was the service provided; and (c) what was the content.
- (6) (a) How is the mobile news and information service currently delivered; and (b) how frequently is it delivered to subscribers.

*412† **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—

- (1) (a) How many grants have been paid nationally under the LPG Vehicle Scheme; and (b) what is the total value of the grants.
- (2) How many grants have been paid nationally under: (a) the \$2 000 scheme; and (b) the \$1 000 scheme.
- (3) For each state and territory: (a) how many grants have been paid under the scheme; and (b) what is the total value of the grants.
- (4) For each federal electorate: (a) how many grants have been paid under the scheme; and (b) what is the total value of the grants.
- (5) How much has been spent on advertising the scheme since: (a) its inception; and (b) 3 December 2007.

Notice given 16 April 2008

Senator Milne: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *413-*415) (*question nos 413 and 414 transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy on 18 April 2008*)—

- (1) Which energy or mining sector companies has the Minister met with since the Australian Labor Party formed Government.
- (2) Which energy or mining sector companies has the department met with since Australian Labor Party formed Government.

*413† Minister representing the Prime Minister

*414† Minister for Climate Change and Water

*415† Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy

*416 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—Since the Australian Labor Party formed Government, has the Minister or the department made any statements or published any material indicating the year in which it is expected that the first commercial-scale power station will be operating with carbon capture and storage; if so: (a) when and where were the statements made or the material published; and (b) what was the year or years indicated.

*417 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—Can a list be provided of building leases signed since the Australian Labor Party formed Government in 2007, including details of each building's Australian Building Greenhouse Rating.

- *418 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (*transferred to the Minister for Climate Change and Water on 1 May 2008*)—Were the contracts with the Australian Rain Corporation and the University of Queensland in relation to the trial of the rain enhancement technology signed during the caretaker period prior to the 2007 Federal Election; if so: (a) did these contain clauses allowing the contract to be rescinded following a change of government; if not, why not; and (b) what was the wording of these clauses.
- *419 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—The Government's election policy document, 'Labor's national plan to tackle the water crisis', dated November 2007, set an aspirational target that by 2020 all Australian homes, where suitable, will have appliances such as rainwater tanks and grey water reuse systems: Since forming Government, what steps has the Australian Labor Party taken to ensure that this target will be achieved.
- *420 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on 24 April 2008*)—
- (1) In relation to commitments the Government made in its election policy fact sheet, 'A national energy efficiency goal', what work has been undertaken to:
 - (a) 'accelerate the development and implementation of a nationwide tool for reducing water and energy usage in new homes';
 - (b) 'accelerate the roll out of smart meters, and develop and implement national standards for these meters to ensure that compatible technologies are used across Australia';
 - (c) 'implement compulsory point-of-sale sustainability scorecards, based on a transparent and nationally consistent protocol for home energy and water efficiency ratings, and work with the housing and real estate industry to encourage point-of-lease scorecards on a voluntary basis'; and
 - (d) 'establish a new ten-star appliance rating system and Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards to fast track smart efficient technology and work with industry and State and Territory Governments to gradually phase out greenhouse intensive hot water systems'.
 - (2) What key performance indicator will be used to assess whether Australia is 'on track to being at the forefront of OECD energy efficiency improvement'.

Notice given 21 April 2008

- *421 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—
- (1) Is it the case that, in a lawsuit lodged in the New South Wales Supreme Court by Ms Zhang Cui Ying against Mr Jiang Zemin, Mr Luo Gan and the 610 Office of China, the department submitted an appeal seeking leave to intervene and seeking to grant the defendants foreign diplomatic immunity under the *Foreign States Immunities Act 1985*, making the defendants exempt from prosecution.
 - (2) Are there any other details that can be provided about the case and the Government's involvement.
 - (3) What was the outcome of the case.

Notice given 22 April 2008

- *422 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—
- (1) (a) Has the department carried out an investigation into breaches of legally binding environmental conditions in relation to the Great Southern Limited (GSL) forest conversion project on Melville Island, Northern Territory; and (b) has the investigation been completed.
 - (2) (a) Has the department reported on its findings; and (b) will the report be made public.
 - (3) (a) Has the matter been referred to the Australian Government Solicitor or any other Commonwealth legal agency for advice on prosecution; (b) has this advice been received by the department or the Minister; (c) what does the advice say in regard to the breaches and the need for prosecution to occur; and (d) will this advice be made public.
 - (4) When will GSL be prosecuted for breaches of its legally binding environmental conditions on Melville Island.
 - (5) Will GSL be required to rehabilitate the areas of native forest habitat it illegally cleared on Melville Island.

Notice given 28 April 2008

- *423 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to the answer provided to question on notice no. 24 from additional estimates hearings of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in regard to 29 people held in immigration detention after having their visas cancelled: Can the Minister advise for each detainee: (a) their country of origin; (b) their overall length of stay in Australia; (c) the age they entered Australia; (d) the number of days spent in detention; (e) the detention centre they are held in; (f) the crimes they were convicted of under Australian law; (g) the reason for their detention; and (h) the action being undertaken to resolve their status.

Notice given 30 April 2008

- *424 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—Has a decision yet been made to increase the levy on the import and sale of new refrigerant to cope with the increasing volume now required to be reclaimed; if so, what was that decision.
- *425 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Given that the provision of family planning services will be fundamental to the achievement of a number of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goals MDGs 4 and 5: (a) what percentage of AusAID funding is spent specifically on family planning activities; (b) what percentage of family planning activity spending is spent on: (i) education, (ii) service delivery, and (iii) contraceptive supply; (c) what type of contraceptive methods were provided with AusAID funding in the last reporting period; and (d) what percentage of AusAID funding is spent on reproductive health in general, including HIV/AIDs.
 - (2) How does current expenditure on family planning activities compare, in real percentage terms, to expenditure prior to the introduction of the AusAID Family Planning Guidelines.

Senator Allison: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *426-*427)—With reference to: (a) the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 and the requirement under regulation 5H(2) that abortifacients, including mifepristone, misoprostol and prostaglandins, require the approval of the Secretary to the department for importation under the Special Access Scheme (SAS) by a medical practitioner who forms the view that his or her patient meets the Category A definition in regulation 12A(5) of the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990 as ‘a person who is seriously ill with a condition from which death is reasonably likely’; and (b) the fact that a doctor only needs to notify the Therapeutic Goods Administration of intention to import an unapproved drug for a Category A patient, other than those on the restricted list, and is not required to lodge an application or obtain approval:

- (1) Given the many clinical trials now being conducted worldwide into mifepristone and the growing evidence of the usefulness of this drug in treating medical conditions, including viral infections, such as tumorigenesis, immunodeficiency conditions and hepatitis C, chlamydia pneumonia, cancers, including gynaecological cancers that are hormone receptive tumors, leukaemia and breast cancer, Cushing’s Syndrome, depressive and post traumatic stress disorders, Alzheimer’s Disease and adverse reactions from the use of corticosteroids, why do these substances continue to be listed as ‘restricted goods’.
- (2) What does the Government understand to be the health risk associated with the use of mifepristone in these trials or for use by patients under the SAS.
- (3) How does this risk compare with the risk of death from serious illness such as is required for access under the SAS.
- (4) Given the fact that the Government accepts no responsibility for the use of any unapproved drug, even one which has been used for more than two decades around the world, what is the imperative for making abortifacient drugs ‘restricted’.
- (5) What is the process for removing a ‘restricted goods’ listing.
- (6) When will this be done for: (a) mifepristone; (b) misoprostol; and (c) prostaglandins.

*426 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

*427 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 6 May 2008*)

*428 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—

- (1) Does the Government consider it necessary for a complete, nationwide overhaul of the railway system.
- (2) Would such an overhaul include the modernisation of all of the system’s aspects, including high speed trains and punctual services, climatised passenger carriages, speedy freight delivery and a shift of trucks off the roads on long haul, comfortable, fast journeys for passengers travelling between major towns and cities, modernised stations to be more like airports and managed by people rather than machines and telephone or internet booking of seats and automatic ticketing, as occurs in Europe; if so, what is the Government’s program for doing so; if not, why not.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the passenger train from Sydney to Canberra still has wooden carriages dating from the steam train era.

- (4) Does the Minister consider the Sydney to Canberra service to be satisfactory.
- (5) To what extent does the Minister consider the lack of passengers to be due to the standard of services provided on this service and other interstate lines in Australia.
- (6) How does this service and other interstate services compare with train services between major cities in other countries, such as France and Italy.

*429 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 5 May 2008*)—

- (1) Is it the case that Australia, along with Canada and the United States of America, refused to sign or adopt the final report of the United Nations International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, released in April 2008; if so, why.
- (2) Does the report, produced by more than 400 of the world's leading scientists, call for a fundamental change in farming practices in order to address soaring food prices, hunger, social inequities and environmental disaster.
- (3) Does the report find that industrial agriculture has failed and that genetically-engineered crops are no solution to the problems of poverty, hunger or climate change.
- (4) Does the report: (a) recommend small-scale farming and agro-ecological methods as the way forward in solving the current food crisis and meeting the needs of local communities; (b) state that Indigenous and local knowledge play as important a role as formal science; and (c) state that a significant departure from the destructive chemical-dependent, one size fits all model of industrial agriculture is needed.
- (5) What, specifically, is it in this report that the Government disagrees with and why.

*430 **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. 6, is there a facility in Australia capable of treating hexachlorobenzene waste; if so: (a) where is it; and (b) what is its capability.

Notice given 2 May 2008

*431 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Sport—In relation to the decision made in October 2007 by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to cease formal relations with Taekwondo Australia Inc. (TA) and to withdraw its 2007-08 funding offer:

- (1) Has any action been taken by the ASC to help TA regain its recognition as the national sporting organisation for taekwondo; if not, why not.
- (2) Has the ASC reimbursed TA for funds spent prior to the suspension; if not, why not.
- (3) Is it the case that the ASC justified its suspension of funding to TA on the grounds that it sacked its national coach during an overseas competition but that this is now known not to be the case; if so, why was funding suspended.

- (4) Is it the case that TA now exceeds the governance requirements of the ASC; if so, why has funding not been reinstated; if not, what requirements are there still to meet.

*432 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—With reference to the answer to question on notice AI-4 from the 2007-08 additional estimates hearings of the Economics Committee detailing the department's agreement with the Australian Associated Press (AAP) to provide a 'daily, internet-based print media monitoring service AAP NewsCentre':

- (1) How many users were or are actively allocated access to the service: (a) on 21 February 2008; (b) on 21 April 2008; and (c) now.
- (2) How many users of the service are located in each of the Ministers' office(s).
- (3) What is the job description and classification of each of the current users of the service.

Notice given 5 May 2008

*433 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) How many weekly, fortnightly and monthly reports are prepared by departmental officials for: (a) the Minister; (b) the Secretary of the department; and (c) the Deputy Secretaries of the department.
- (2) What is the title of each of the reports in (1)(a), (b) and (c).

*434 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) For each year since 2000, how many people have been found to be working illegally in Australia, and in each case: (a) what was their nationality; and (b) in which state were they found to be working.
- (2) For each month since July 2007, how many people have been found to be working illegally in Australia, and in each case: (a) what was their nationality; and (b) in which state were they found to be working.

*435 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recently-released global report on agriculture (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, www.agassessment.org) which indicates that support for agro-ecological approaches is essential for the world to continue to be able to feed the world and to optimise sustainability and productivity.
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the 2007 report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization which concluded that systems-based agro-ecological approaches could improve ecological sustainability, increase farming productivity, minimise fertiliser costs and increase resilience of the agriculture sector to the environmental impacts of climate change.
- (3) What action, if any, will the Government take in response to these reports.
- (4) Will the innovation review address the question of agro-ecological innovation in Australia; if so, how.
- (5) What were the reasons for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) rejecting funding support for two bids for an organic cooperative research centre.

- (6) (a) What level and proportion of departmental appropriation revenue is allocated to agricultural research; (b) what level and proportion of this revenue is spent on farm-based research; and (c) of the departmental budget for farm-based research, what proportion is from external funding.
- (7) (a) What level and proportion of CSIRO appropriation revenue is allocated to agricultural research; (b) what level and proportion of this revenue is spent on farm-based research; (c) of the CSIRO budget for farm-based research, what proportion is from external funding; (d) what level and proportion of the CSIRO Plant Industry's appropriation revenue is spent on farm-based research; and (e) to what research is the remaining revenue allocated.
- (8) What level and proportion of the farm-based research funding in (6)(b) and (7)(b) is allocated to studying agro-ecological systems (please provide both figures).
- (9) What level and proportion of the farm-based research funding in (6)(b) and (7)(b) is allocated to comparing different farm management practices and their impact on the ecology (please provide both figures).
- (10) What level and proportion of the farm-based research funding in (6)(b) and (7)(b) is allocated to long-term trials, comparing the impact of organic, biological and conventional farming systems on various indicators of sustainability (please provide both figures).
- (11) What are the changes in budget allocation and expenditure for the areas of research referred to in paragraphs (8) to (10) over the past decade (please provide figures).
- (12) What proportion of CSIRO's collaborations with research and development (R&D) organisations include research areas referred to in paragraphs (8) to (10) (please provide figures).
- (13) What plans are there to carry out long-term comparative field trials that identify how different farming practices, including organic, biological and conventional approaches, impact on the ecology that underpins sustainable farming.
- (14) With reference to the statement by Mr TJ Higgins of the CSIRO on the Special Broadcasting Service's *Insight* program on 22 April 2008 that CSIRO spends 2 per cent of its total research budget on genetically-modified (GM) related research and less than a tenth of this comes from multinational companies: (a) what is the total research budget for GM-related research; (b) what percentage of CSIRO's appropriation revenue allocated to agricultural research is spent on GM-related research; (c) how is the rest allocated; (d) how is GM-related research defined; and (e) does the total research budget include money from research and development corporations or is it appropriation revenue.
- (15) (a) What percentage of CSIRO's appropriation revenue allocated to agricultural research is spent on laboratory-based biotechnologies; and (b) how is the rest allocated.
- (16) Is it the case that CSIRO's agriculture research is increasing laboratory-based work and decreasing on-farm research.
- (17) Does the Minister consider on-farm research to have been neglected by the previous government, leaving the CSIRO without agro-ecological research insights and putting the ongoing sustainability of Australian agriculture at risk.

- (18) What percentage of CSIRO Plant Industry's appropriation revenue allocated to agricultural research is spent on laboratory-based biotechnologies; and (b) how is the rest allocated.
- (19) What arrangements and plans, if any, does the Government and/or CSIRO have for intellectual property agreements and alliances with global agribusiness which control the path to market for agriculture-based products.
- (20) (a) What formal and informal arrangements does CSIRO currently have with global agribusiness that facilitates research in the area of biotechnology; and (b) can a list of these organisations and the arrangements be provided.
- (21) What proportion of the Government's \$130 million initiative to help farmers adapt to climate change (Australia's Farming Future Initiative) will be allocated to an examination of the possible contribution of organic and biological approaches to agriculture.

*436 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs—

- (1) Can the Minister explain whether advice provided to doctors and patients on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) frequently asked questions on access to unapproved drugs via the Special Access Scheme is inconsistent with Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (the regulations).
- (2) Since 1996, by year and drug, how many permits to import drugs in the 'restricted goods' category have been issued by the TGA (the date the amendment was made to the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* to include a 'restricted goods' category and make the importation of these drugs under the Special Access Scheme subject to the regulations).
- (3) Of the permits issued and surrendered to the Australian Customs Service (ACS) when the consignment arrives in Australia, how many and which have complied with Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the regulations.
- (4) Who is responsible for ensuring that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing and authorised persons in the TGA comply with Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the regulations.
- (5) Does the ACS have any role in ensuring compliance with the regulations through an audit process, monitoring and reporting, given it is responsible for the administration of the regulations.
- (6) Does the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ACS enforce compliance of the regulations with respect to Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the regulations; if so, how.
- (7) Is the CEO of the ACS aware of any audits that have taken place on the TGA's compliance with Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the regulations; if so, what were the dates of those audits and what were the results of the audits regarding compliance with Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the regulations.
- (8) How many permits issued by the TGA were not subsequently surrendered to ACS.

- (9) (a) How many of these cases included people who did not proceed with the importation following the issue of a permit due to the fact that the TGA has not complied with Part 5, Clause 11(b) of the regulations and they experienced difficulty in locating an overseas supplier as a result; and (b) of those people how many died before they could obtain information on overseas suppliers contact details and complete the importation process (see 2006 Estimates Hansard).

Notice given 7 May 2008

- *437 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs—With reference to Commonwealth land in metropolitan areas of Perth, Western Australia: (a) are any Commonwealth facilities expected to become vested in the State of Western Australia during 2008 to 2018 for the development of affordable housing; (b) are there any plans to redevelop the Irwin and Campbell Barracks and the former Australian Broadcasting Corporation site for affordable housing; and (c) does the Commonwealth have plans to make any Commonwealth land available in Western Australia for housing.

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 Amendment of committee names; Allocation of departments

- (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.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

3 Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Authorisation to meet

That the Joint Standing Committee on Migration be authorised to hold private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sittings of the Senate.

(Agreed to 18 March 2008.)

4 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.)

5 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.)

6 Substitute members of committees—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

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.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also 'Meeting of the Senate' below.)

Estimates

7 2007-08 Additional estimates—2008-09 Budget estimates—Hearings

- (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.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

8 2007-08 Additional estimates—Answers to questions

The dates set by standing committees for answering questions taken on notice during the 2007-08 additional estimates are as follows:

Group A:	
Environment, Communications, and the Arts	Thursday, 10 April 2008
Finance and Public Administration	Friday, 4 April 2008
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Wednesday, 2 April 2008
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport	Wednesday, 9 April 2008
Group B:	
Community Affairs	Friday, 11 April 2008
Economics	Friday, 11 April 2008
Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Friday, 11 April 2008
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Thursday, 10 April 2008.

Standing order 74(5) takes effect 30 days after these dates.

Meeting of Senate

9 Meeting of Senate

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.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

10 Adjournment debate on Tuesday—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

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.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)

11 Divisions on Thursday—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

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.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)

Orders for production of documents**12 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.)

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.

TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

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

CATEGORIES OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

- **Legislative and General Purpose**
 - Community Affairs
 - Economics
 - Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
 - Environment, Communications 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

Select Committees

- Agricultural and Related Industries
- Housing Affordability in Australia
- Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities
- State Government Financial Management

Joint Committees

- **Standing**
 - Electoral Matters
 - Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
 - Migration
 - National Capital and External Territories
 - Parliamentary Library
 - Treaties

- **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.

COMMITTEES

Agricultural and Related Industries—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/agric_ctte/index.htm

(appointed 14 February 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008)

Members

Senator Heffernan (*Chair*), Senator O'Brien (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Fisher, Milne, Nash and Sterle

Appropriations and Staffing—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/APP_CTTE/index.htm

Members

The President (*Chairman*), the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and Senators Faulkner, Lundy, Murray, Nash and Parry

Report presented

* 45th report—Department of the Senate's budget; Ordinary annual services of the government; Parliamentary computer network (*tabled 20 March 2008*)

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/aclei_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Campbell (*Chair*), Senator Fierravanti-Wells (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Carol Brown and Parry and Mr Clare, Mr Hayes, Mr McGauran, Ms Parke and Mr Pyne

Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Hutchins (*Chair*), Mr Wood (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Barnett, Parry and Polley and Mr Champion, Mr Gibbons, Mr Hayes and Mr Pyne

Current inquiries

Examination of the Australian Crime Commission annual report for 2006-07 (*adopted 17 March 2008*)

Australian Crime Commission Amendment Act 2007 (*adopted 17 March 2008*)

Legislative arrangement to outlaw serious and organised crime groups (*adopted 17 March 2008*)

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

The President, the Speaker, and Senators Cormann and O'Brien and Mr Hale, Mr Hawker, Mr Hayes, Mr Lindsay and Mr Price

Community Affairs—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

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

Members

Senator Moore (*Chair*), Senator Humphries (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Allison, Boyce, Carol Brown, Lundy and Polley

Substitute member

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008—Senator Crossin to replace Senator Polley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008] (*referred 14 February 2008; reporting date: 18 June 2008*)

Mental health services in Australia (*referred 28 March 2007; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 26 June 2008*)

Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 12 August 2008*)

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*referred 19 March 2008; reporting date: 7 May 2008*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 41st Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2008*)

Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)

- * A decent quality of life: Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
- * Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
- * Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions]—Interim report (*presented to the President on 7 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/corporations_ctte/index.htm

Members

Mr Ripoll (*Chair*), Senator Chapman (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Boyce, Kirk, Murray and Webber and Ms Grierson, Mr Keenan, Ms Owens, and Mr Robert

Current inquiry

Continuing oversight of the operations of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (*statutory responsibility*)

Economics—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

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

Members

Senator Hurley (*Chair*), Senator Eggleston (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bishop, Bushby, Joyce, McEwen, Murray and Webber

Substitute member

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]—Senator Allison to replace Senator Murray

Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008—Senator Allison to replace Senator Murray

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Campbell, Carol Brown, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hutchins, Johnston, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood, Watson and Wortley

Current inquiries

Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*)

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008] (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*)

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008 (*referred 19 March 2008; reporting date: 16 September 2008*)
 Australia's space science and industry sector (*referred 19 March 2008; interim reporting date: 23 June 2008; final reporting date: no later than October 2008*)
 Australia's mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme (*referred 19 March 2008; reporting date: May 2008*)

Reports 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*)
 Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)
 * Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
 * Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the Deputy President on 1 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)
 * Australia's mandatory last resort home warranty insurance schemes—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 1 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/index.htm

(formerly *Employment, Workplace Relations and Education*; name amended 13 February 2008)

Portfolio

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Members

Senator Marshall (*Chair*), Senator Watson (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Boyce, Crossin, Fisher, Sterle, Stott Despoja and Wortley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Campbell, Carol Brown, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Troeth, Trood and Webber

Reports presented

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 (*tabled 17 March 2008*)
 Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)
 * Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
-

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee

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

(appointed 14 February 2008)

Members

Mr Melham (*Chair*), Mr Morrison (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Birmingham, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Hutchins and Ronaldson and Mr Danby, Mr Scott and Mr Sullivan

Current inquiries

2007 Federal Election (*referred 12 March 2008*)

Provisions of Schedule 1 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008 (*referred 19 March 2008; reporting date: June 2009*)

Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ecita_ctte/index.htm

(formerly *Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; name amended 13 February 2008*)

Portfolios

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

Members

Senator McEwen (*Chair*), Senator Bartlett (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Birmingham, Kemp, Lundy, Parry, Webber and Wortley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bernardi, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kirk, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood and Watson

Current inquiries

Sexualisation of children in the media (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 23 June 2008*)

- * Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008 (*referred 20 March 2008; reporting date: 7 May 2008*)
- * Broadcasting codes of practice (*referred 20 March 2008; reporting date: 9 June 2008*)
- * Waste management in Australia and the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008 (*referred 20 March 2008; reporting date: August 2008*)

Reports presented

Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)

- * Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
- * Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Bishop, on 30 April 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)

- * Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008—Interim report (*presented to the President on 7 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)

Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/fapa_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

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

Members

Senator Polley (*Chair*), Senator Fifield (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Carol Brown, Fierravanti-Wells, Forshaw, Moore, Murray and Watson

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fisher, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Webber and Wortley

Reports presented

Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)

- * Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Senator Forshaw (*Chair*), Mr Hawker (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Bishop, Cormann, Fifield, Kirk, Sandy Macdonald, Moore, Payne, Stott Despoja, Trood and Webber and Mr Baldwin, Mr Bevis, Mr Danby, Ms AL Ellis, Mr Gibbons, Ms Grierson, Mr Hale, Mr Macfarlane, Mrs Mirabella, Ms Parke, Ms Rea, Mr Ripoll, Mr Robb, Mr Robert, Mr Ruddock, Ms Saffin, Mr Scott, Mr KJ Thomson and Ms Vamvakinou

Current inquiry

- * Review of the Department of Defence annual report 2006-07 (*adopted 4 April 2008*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT_CTTE/index.htm

Portfolios

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

Members

Senator Bishop (*Chair*), Senator Trood (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Cormann, Forshaw, Hogg, Sandy Macdonald and McEwen

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations (*referred 8 November 2006; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 15 May 2008*)

Review of reforms to Australia's military justice system by the Australian Defence Force (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 22 June 2006; readopted 14 February 2008*)

Reports 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*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 41st Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2008*)

Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)

* Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)

House—Standing Committee*Members*

The President (*Chair*), the Deputy President, and Senators Crossin, Heffernan, Parry, Stephens and Wortley

Housing Affordability in Australia—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/hsaf_ctte/index.htm

(*appointed 14 February 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008*)

Members

Senator Payne (*Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Colbeck, Fifield, Lundy and Moore

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

Mr Bevis (*Chair*), Mr Ruddock (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators McGauran, Marshall and Nash and Mr Downer, Mr Dreyfus and Mr Melham

Current inquiry

Review of listings of certain terrorist organisations under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (*statutory responsibility*)

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*)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

Attorney-General; Immigration and Citizenship

Members

Senator Crossin (*Chair*), Senator Barnett (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Fisher, Hurley, Kirk, Marshall and Trood

Substitute member

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008—Senator Hogg to replace Senator Hurley

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008—Senator Hogg to replace Senator Hurley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 23 June 2008*)

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008*)

Reports 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*)

Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)

* Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)

- * Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 1 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)
 - * Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Murray, on 6 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)
-

Library—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chair*), and Senators Allison, Barnett, Hutchins, Kirk, Trood and Webber

Migration—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Mr Danby (*Chair*), Mrs DS Vale (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Eggleston, McEwen and Polley and Ms D' Ath, Mr Georgiou, Mr Randall and Mr Zappia

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Senator Lundy (*Chair*), Mr Secker (*Deputy Chair*), and the Deputy President and Chairman of Committees, the Deputy Speaker, and Senators Crossin, Humphries, Joyce and Stott Despoja and Mr Adams, Ms AL Ellis, Mr Neville and Mr Turnour

Current inquiry

- * Role of the National Capital Authority (*referred 19 February 2008*)
-

Parliamentary Library—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Senators Allison, Barnett, Hutchins, Kirk, Trood and Webber and Mr Adams, Mr Broadbent, Mr Butler, Mr Hawker, Ms Jackson, Mrs Mirabella and Mr Perrett

Privileges—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/priv_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Brandis (*Chair*), Senator Hurley (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators McGauran, McLucas, O'Brien and Payne

Current inquiry

Whether false or misleading evidence was given to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee or any other Senate committee concerning the Government's knowledge of the rendition of Mr Mamdouh Habib to Egypt, and whether any contempt was committed in that regard (*referred 18 September 2007*)

Procedure—Standing Committee

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, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and Senators Bartlett, Ellison, Faulkner, Hurley and Parry

Publications—Standing Committee

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

Members

Senator Carol Brown (*Chair*) and Senators Bernardi, Marshall, Mason, Parry, Sterle and Wortley

Report presented

* 1st report (*tabled 20 March 2008*)

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

Ms Grierson (*Chair*), Mr Georgiou (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bishop, Chapman, Hogg, Lundy, Murray and Watson and Mr Baldwin, Mr Bevis, Mr Bradbury, Mr Butler, Ms King, Mr Morrison, Mr Neumann and Mr Robert

Current inquiries

Certain taxation matters (*adopted 7 December 2005; readopted 12 March 2008*)

Financial reporting and equipment acquisition at the Department of Defence and the Defence Materiel Organisation (*adopted 1 March 2006; readopted 12 March 2008*)

Review of Auditor-General's reports (*statutory responsibility*)

Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

Senators Bishop, Forshaw and Troeth and Mr Butler, Mr Champion, Mr Forrest, Mr Hale, Mr Lindsay and Mr Slipper

Reports presented

Seventy-first annual report (First report of 2008) (*tabled 19 March 2008*)

HMAS *Creswell* redevelopment, Jervis Bay Territory (Second report of 2008) (*tabled 19 March 2008*)

Land Engineering Agency test services relocation, Monegeetta, Victoria (Third report of 2008) (*tabled 19 March 2008*)

Refurbishment of staff apartments, Australian Embassy complex, Tokyo, Japan (Fourth report of 2008) (*tabled 19 March 2008*)

Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/indig_ctte/index.htm

(*appointed 19 March 2008; reporting dates: 30 September 2008, 30 March 2009, 30 September 2009, 30 March 2010 and 30 September 2010*)

Members

Senator Johnston (*Chair*), Senator Crossin (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Moore, Scullion and Siewert

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Regulations and Ordinances—Legislative Scrutiny Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/regord_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Wortley (*Chairman*), Senator Ronaldson (*Deputy Chairman*), and Senators Bartlett, Carol Brown, Cormann and Moore

Documents presented

- * Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation, February 2007 to March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
 - * Delegated legislation monitor—Disallowable legislative instruments tabled in the Senate in 2007, dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
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Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rrat_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

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

Members

Senator Sterle (*Chair*), Senator Siewert (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Heffernan, Hutchins, Hurley, McGauran, Nash and O'Brien

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Hogg, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nettle, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Scullion, Stephens, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Climate change and the Australian agricultural sector (*referred 19 September 2007; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 4 September 2008*)

Meat marketing (*referred 19 March 2008; reporting date: 4 September 2008*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 41st Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2008*)

Additional estimates 2007-08, dated March 2008 (*tabled 18 March 2008*)

- * Annual reports (No. 1 of 2008), dated March 2008 (*tabled 20 March 2008*)
- * Exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 24 April 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)
- * Exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Bishop, on 30 April 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7)*)

Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Committee

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

Members

Senator Ellison (*Chairman*), Senator Bishop (*Deputy Chairman*), and Senators McEwen, Murray and Troeth

Alert Digests presented

No. 1 of 2008 (*tabled 12 March 2008*)

No. 2 of 2008 (*tabled 19 March 2008*)

Reports presented

First report of 2008 (*tabled 12 March 2008*)

Second report of 2008 (*tabled 19 March 2008*)

Selection of Bills—Standing Committee

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, the Family First Party Whip, and Senators Adams, Ellison, Ludwig and Webber

Reports presented

Report no. 1 of 2008 (*presented 14 February 2008*)

Report no. 2 of 2008 (*presented 12 March 2008*)

Report no. 3 of 2008 (*presented 19 March 2008*)

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/interests_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Johnston (*Chair*), Senator Webber (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Allison, Forshaw, Humphries, Kirk and Lightfoot

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*)

Report presented

Report 1/2008: Annual report 2007 (*tabled 17 March 2008*)

Document presented

Registration of Senators' Interests: A handbook for senators, also incorporating related information on registering gifts to the Senate and the Parliament, 2008 edition (*tabled 17 March 2008*)

State Government Financial Management—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/sgfm_ctte/index.htm

(*appointed 14 February 2008; reporting date varied 12 March and 20 March 2008; reporting date: 27 August 2008*)

Members

Senator Ian Macdonald (*Chair*), and Senators Bushby, Chapman, Forshaw and Polley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Campbell, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Hogg, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Mr KJ Thomson (*Chair*), Senator Sandy Macdonald (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Birmingham, Bushby, Marshall, Sterle and Wortley and Mr Andrews, Mr Forrest, Ms Hall, Ms Neal, Ms Parke, Mr Simpkins, Mr Trevor and Ms Vamvakinou

Current inquiry

All treaties tabled in the Senate

SENATE APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AUTHORITIES**Advisory Council on Australian Archives**Senator Lundy (*appointed 12 March 2008, 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 O'Brien and Watson (*appointed 12 March 2008 and 10 February 1994, respectively*).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate

MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION

Ministers	Representing
Senator the Honourable Christopher Evans (<u>Chris</u>) <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
Senator the Honourable John Faulkner <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
Senator the Honourable Stephen Conroy <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
Senator the Honourable Kim Carr <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
Senator the Honourable Penelope Wong (<u>Penny</u>) <i>Minister for 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
Senator the Honourable Joseph Ludwig (<u>Joe</u>) <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
Senator the Honourable Nicholas Sherry (<u>Nick</u>) <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	
Senator the Honourable Ursula Stephens <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector</i> <i>Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion</i>	
Senator the Honourable Jan McLucas <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

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