

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

NOTICE PAPER

No. 51

THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2008

The Senate meets at 9.30 am

Contents

Business of the Senate	
Notices of Motion.....	2
Orders of the Day	5
Government Business	
Notice of Motion	5
Orders of the Day	6
Notices of Motion—continued	8
Orders of the Day—continued	8
Orders of the Day relating to Committee Reports and Government Responses and Auditor-General's Reports.....	9
General Business	
Notices of Motion.....	10
Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents.....	15
Orders of the Day	19
Business for Future Consideration.....	26
Bills Referred to Committees	32
Bills Discharged or Negatived	33
Questions on Notice	34
Orders of the Senate	86
Contingent Notices of Motion	97
Temporary Chairs of Committees	100
Categories of Committees.....	100
Committees	101
Senate Appointments to Statutory Authorities	124
Ministerial Representation	125
Guide to the Notice Paper	126

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

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Notices of Motion

Notice given 13 October 2008

- 1 **Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wortley):** To move—That Instrument No. CASA 389/08, made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed. [F2008L02712]

Last day to resolve the motion or the instrument will be deemed to have been disallowed.

Notice of intention to withdraw at the giving of notices on 4 December 2008
(*Notice given 3 December 2008*)

- 2 **Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wortley):** To move—That Instrument No. CASA 390/08, made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed. [F2008L02713]

Last day to resolve the motion or the instrument will be deemed to have been disallowed.

Notice of intention to withdraw at the giving of notices on 4 December 2008
(*Notice given 3 December 2008*)

- 3 **Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wortley):** To move—That Instrument No. CASA 397/08, made under subregulation 38(1) of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed. [F2008L02734]

Last day to resolve the motion or the instrument will be deemed to have been disallowed.

Notice of intention to withdraw at the giving of notices on 4 December 2008
(*Notice given 3 December 2008*)

- 4 **Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wortley):** To move—That Instrument No. CASA 414/08, made under subregulation 38(1) of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed. [F2008L03001]

Last day to resolve the motion or the instrument will be deemed to have been disallowed.

Notice of intention to withdraw at the giving of notices on 4 December 2008
(*Notice given 3 December 2008*)

Notice given 2 December 2008

- 5 **Senator Siewert:** To move—That the following matters be referred to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 25 June 2009:

- (a) an assessment of the environmental, economic and community impacts of existing and proposed forestry and mining operations on the Tiwi Islands including compliance with relevant environmental approvals and conditions;

- (b) a review of governance arrangements relating to existing forestry and mining operations on the Tiwi Islands, including the examination of consent and approval processes to date;
- (c) in respect to forestry operations, an examination of the adequacy of contractual, commercial and legal arrangements between project proponents and operators and the Tiwi Land Council (including examination and reporting on 'Commercial-in-Confidence' documentation and land valuations, lease arrangements and royalty payments);
- (d) an examination of the economic opportunity costs associated with existing developments including forestry operations;
- (e) an examination of the prospects for alternative economic development opportunities and impediments for the Tiwi Islands including sale and promotion of cultural products, community development activities, land and sea management, and opportunities for involvement in future carbon trading and emissions offsets schemes; and
- (f) any related matters.

Notice given 3 December 2008

- *6 **Senator Barnett:** To move—That the following matter be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 25 June 2009:

Australia's judicial system and the role of judges, with particular reference to:

- (a) the procedure for appointment and method of termination;
- (b) the term of appointment, including the desirability of a compulsory retirement age, and the merit of full-time, part-time or other arrangements;
- (c) appropriate qualifications;
- (d) jurisdictional issues;
- (e) the cost of delivering justice;
- (f) the timeliness of judicial decisions;
- (g) the judicial complaints handling system;
- (h) the interface between the federal and state judicial system; and
- (i) other matters relating and incidental thereto.

- *7 **Senator Ludlam:** To move—That the following matter be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for inquiry and report by 18 June 2009:

The investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services, with reference to the August 2005 report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage, *Sustainable Cities*, and the February 2007 report of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, *Australia's future oil supply and alternative transport fuels*, including:

- (a) an audit of the state of public passenger transport in Australia;
- (b) current and historical levels of public investment in private vehicle and public passenger transport services and infrastructure;
- (c) an assessment of the benefits of public passenger transport, including integration with bicycle and pedestrian initiatives;
- (d) measures by which the Commonwealth Government could facilitate improvement in public passenger transport services and infrastructure;

- (e) options for Commonwealth funding for public passenger transport services and infrastructure;
- (f) the role of Commonwealth Government legislation, taxation, subsidies, policies and other mechanisms that either discourage or encourage public passenger transport; and
- (g) best practice international examples of public passenger transport services and infrastructure.

*8 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the following proposed amendments to standing order 25 be referred to the Procedure Committee for inquiry and report by 25 February 2009:

Omit paragraphs (5) and (6), substitute:

- (5) The committees shall each consist of 7 senators, 3 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 3 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 nominated by the Leader of the largest party on the Senate crossbench, in consultation with independent members and other minor parties.

Omit paragraph (9)(a), (b) and (c), substitute:

- (9) (a) The Standing Committee on Community Affairs shall elect as its chair a member of the largest party on the Senate crossbench, and as its deputy chair a member of the Government.
- (b) The Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport shall elect as its chair a member of the Opposition, and as its deputy chair a member of the largest party on the Senate crossbench.
- (c) Of the remaining committees:
 - (i) each of 3 committees shall elect as its chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and as its deputy chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and
 - (ii) each of 3 committees shall elect as its chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate and as its deputy chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.
- (d) The allocation of chairs and deputy chairs in accordance with paragraph (c) shall be determined by agreement between the Government and the Opposition, and, in the absence of agreement duly notified to the President, any question of the allocation of chairs shall be determined by the Senate.

Notice of motion altered on 3 December 2008 pursuant to standing order 77.

*9 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That the following matter be referred to the Procedure Committee for inquiry and report by 25 February 2009:

The temporary orders of the Senate of 15 October 2008 and 13 November 2008, relating to the abolition of questions to senators other than ministers and to chairs of committees, and the restructuring of question time.

Orders of the Day

- 1 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee**
Final report to be presented on climate change and the Australian agricultural sector.
- 2 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on Government expenditure on Indigenous affairs and social services in the Northern Territory.
- 3 **Economics—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations.
- 4 **Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on academic freedom in school and higher education.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Notice of Motion

Notice given 3 December 2008

- *1 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That on Thursday, 4 December 2008:
- (a) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm to adjournment;
 - (b) consideration of general business, and consideration of committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports under standing order 62(1) and (2) shall not be proceeded with;
 - (c) the routine of business from 12.45 pm till not later than 2 pm, and from not later than 3.45 pm shall be government business only;
 - (d) divisions may take place after 4.30 pm;
 - (e) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed after the Senate has finally considered the bills listed below and any messages from the House of Representatives:
 - Schools Assistance Bill 2008 (*message*)
 - Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008
 - Road Charges Legislation Repeal and Amendment Bill 2008
 - Temporary Residents' Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
 - Superannuation (Departing Australia Superannuation Payments Tax) Amendment Bill 2008
 - Water Amendment Bill 2008 (*message*)
 - Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 2) Bill 2008

Nation-building Funds Bill 2008
 Nation-building Funds (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 COAG Reform Fund Bill 2008

Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008

Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Bill 2008

Corporations Amendment (Short Selling) Bill 2008

Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax—Minor Amendments) Bill 2008

Tax Laws Amendment (Political Contributions and Gifts) Bill 2008

Safe Work Australia Bill 2008 (*message*)

Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008
 Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2008
 Horse Disease Response Levy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008.

Notice of motion altered on 3 December 2008 pursuant to standing order 77.

Orders of the Day

1 **Water Amendment Bill 2008**—(*Consideration of message no. 220 from the House of Representatives*)

Adjourned debate on the amended motion of the Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong)—That the report of the committee of the whole be adopted but, due to the Government's failure to support in the House the amendments made by the Senate, the Senate calls on the Government to immediately:

- (a) prohibit construction of the North-South Pipeline and extraction of water from the Goulburn and Murray rivers for use in that pipeline;
- (aa) encourage and support other populations outside the Basin who currently rely on the extraction of water from the basin to broaden their water security by expanding their use of other water sources such as stormwater capture and recycling;
- (b) ensure that water saved through the Living Murray Initiative is immediately guaranteed and then released for environmental flows in the Goulburn and Murray rivers and to replenish the Lower Lakes;
- (c) deliver \$50 million in emergency relief funding to the Lower Lakes and Coorong communities;
- (d) direct the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to undertake a comprehensive hydrological assessment of the proposed North-South pipeline project, and the proposed extraction of water for the pipeline; including an audit of the water savings to be achieved by the Victorian Food Bowl Modernisation Project and its impact on the water resources and environment of the Murray-Darling Basin; and
- (e) ensure that the CSIRO is adequately funded to undertake that assessment (*adjourned, Senator Wong, 2 December 2008*).

- *2 **Schools Assistance Bill 2008**
Consideration in committee of the whole of message no. 225 from the House of Representatives (3 December 2008).
- 3 **Safe Work Australia Bill 2008**
Consideration in committee of the whole of message no. 197 from the House of Representatives (12 November 2008).
- 4 **Temporary Residents' Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2008**
Superannuation (Departing Australia Superannuation Payments Tax) Amendment Bill 2008
In committee (27 November 2008).
- 5 **Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008**
Road Charges Legislation Repeal and Amendment Bill 2008
In committee—Road Charges Legislation Repeal and Amendment Bill 2008 (3 December 2008).
- *6 **Nation-building Funds Bill 2008**
Nation-building Funds (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
COAG Reform Fund Bill 2008—(Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Evans)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Evans, 3 December 2008*).
(Bills exempted on 3 December 2008 from the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111—see *Orders of the Senate—Legislation*)
- 7 **Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 2) Bill 2008**—(Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, Senator Sherry)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Sherry, 26 November 2008*).
- 8 **Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008**—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Ludwig, 25 November 2008*).
- 9 **Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Bill 2008**—(Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator McLucas)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*15 September 2008*).
- 10 **Corporations Amendment (Short Selling) Bill 2008**—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*27 November 2008*).
(Bill exempted on 1 December 2008 from the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111—see *Orders of the Senate—Legislation*)

- 11 **Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax—Minor Amendments) Bill 2008—**
(*Special Minister of State, Senator Faulkner*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Faulkner, 1 December 2008*).
(*Bill exempted on 1 December 2008 from the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111—see Orders of the Senate—Legislation*)
- 12 **Tax Laws Amendment (Political Contributions and Gifts) Bill 2008—**
(*Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Carr*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*14 October 2008*).
- 13 **Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008**
Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2008
Horse Disease Response Levy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008—
(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Ludwig, 3 September 2008*).

Notices of Motion—continued

Notice given 2 December 2008

- 2 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That, on Thursday, 4 December 2008:
- (a) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm to adjournment;
 - (b) consideration of general business and consideration of committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports under standing order 62(1) and (2) shall not be proceeded with;
 - (c) the routine of business from 12.45 pm till not later than 2 pm, and from not later than 3.45 pm shall be government business only;
 - (d) divisions may take place after 4.30 pm; and
 - (e) if the Senate is sitting at 11 pm, the sitting of the Senate shall be suspended till 9 am on Friday, 5 December 2008.

Orders of the Day—continued

- 14 **Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)**
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*15 May 2008*).
- 15 **Budget statement and documents 2008-09**
Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the Budget statement and documents (*adjourned, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (Senator Stephens), 15 May 2008*).
-

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

Orders of the Day relating to Committee Reports and Government Responses

1 National Broadband Network—Select Committee—Interim report

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the report (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 2 December 2008*).

2 Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Report—Opportunity not opportunism: Improving conduct in Australian franchising

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the report (*adjourned, Senator McEwen, 2 December 2008*).

3 Economics—Standing Committee—Report—Joint marketing arrangements on the North West Shelf project

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator McEwen—That the Senate take note of the report (*adjourned, Senator Hurley, 2 December 2008*).

***4 Economics—Standing Committee—Report—Matters relating to the gas explosion at Varanus Island, Western Australia**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Cameron—That the Senate take note of the report (*Senator Pratt, in continuation, 3 December 2008*).

5 Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Report—Item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007

Adjourned debate on the motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Polley)—That the Senate take note of the report (*Senator Bernardi, in continuation, 13 November 2008*).

6 Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008

Adjourned debate on the motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Moore)—That the Senate take note of the report (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).

7 Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Towards recovery: Mental health services in Australia

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, 13 November 2008*).

8 Procedure—Standing Committee—First report of 2008—Restructuring question time; Reference of bills to committees; Questions to chairs of committees; Deputy chairs of committees; Leave to make statements

Adjourned debate on the motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Ferguson)—That the Senate take note of the report.

And on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)—At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate is of the opinion that, instead of restructuring question time in a manner that could reduce the accountability of ministers to the Senate, the rules relating to questions and answers, contained in past presidential rulings, which require, amongst other things, that questions actually be questions relating to ministerial responsibilities, and that answers be responsive and relevant to the questions, be written into the standing orders, and that the Procedure Committee, with the assistance of external expert advisers, review the effectiveness of question time and the application of those rules at the end of each period of sittings” (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas), in continuation, 13 November 2008).

Orders of the Day relating to Auditor-General’s reports

1 Auditor-General—Australian National Audit Office—Report for 2007-08

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Boyce—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Boyce, in continuation, 13 November 2008*).

2 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 9 of 2008-09—Assurance report—Defence Materiel Organisation major projects report 2007-08

Consideration (*27 November 2008*).

3 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 10 of 2008-09—Performance audit—Administration of the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Post-2005 (SIP) Scheme—Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Consideration (*2 December 2008*).

***4 Australian National Audit Office—Independent Auditor (KPMG)—Performance audit—Human resource management, dated December 2008**

Consideration (*3 December 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 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 24 September 2008

- 220 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) the claims of both the Managers of Government Business in the Senate and the House of Representatives that the Government's legislative priority for the sitting week beginning 22 September 2008 is the passage of its budget-related bills, and
 - (ii) that the Government has deferred consideration of its supposed priority bills on numerous occasions throughout the past three sitting weeks; and
- (b) calls on the Government to give precedence to the following bills over other legislation:
 - Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008
 - Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and a related bill.

Notice given 24 November 2008

- 290 **Senator Hanson-Young:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) 9 December 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and
 - (ii) 10 December 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (b) pays tribute to those Australians who played leading roles in the development and adoption of these important instruments of international law and who, since then, have contributed to their implementation;
- (c) recognises, with regret and disappointment, that in the intervening 60 years, violations of human rights have continued to occur in Australia and in other countries;
- (d) affirms that 'the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want [is] the highest aspiration of the common people';
- (e) declares its own 'faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women'; and

- (f) renews its commitment to the principles contained within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to their promotion within Australia and through Australia's international policies and activities.

Notice given 3 December 2008

***322 Senator Cash:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes and commends the sensible action taken by Labor Senators Sterle and Hutchins and also the Labor Member for Throsby, Ms George, in expressing concern over the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS);
- (b) notes the concern expressed publicly by a number of industries that may be potentially affected by the proposed CPRS including BlueScope Steel, Nyrstar, Qantas and Visy; and
- (c) calls on the Government to delay the introduction of the proposed CPRS until these concerns are addressed.

***323 Senator Siewert:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the joint Common Position Statement which highlights the unsustainable and cruel nature of recreational shooting of native waterbirds which is endorsed by 136 organisations, including the World Wildlife Fund, Birds Australia, Bird Observation and Conservation Australia, RSPCA Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation, and the Wilderness Society;
- (b) explores permanently banning recreational duck shooting on all:
 - (i) Commonwealth controlled land, and
 - (ii) Ramsar sites throughout Australia; and
- (c) considers working in co-operation with Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement for nationally-consistent legislation for a permanent ban on the recreational shooting of native waterbirds.

***324 Senator Bushby:** To move—

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on the Bank Deposit Guarantee, be established to inquire into and report by 30 June 2009 on:
 - (a) the circumstances and basis of the decision to introduce an unlimited bank deposit guarantee and of subsequent decisions to change or define the guarantee;
 - (b) the circumstances and basis of the decision to introduce an unlimited wholesale bank funding guarantee and of subsequent decisions to change or define the guarantee;
 - (c) the effect that the initial announcement of – and subsequent changes to – an unlimited bank deposit guarantee had on the Australian financial sector, including for companies not regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA);
 - (d) the effect that the initial announcement of – and subsequent changes to – an unlimited wholesale bank funding guarantee had on the Australian financial sector, including for companies not regulated by APRA;
 - (e) the estimated effect of the bank deposit and wholesale funding guarantees on interest rates in Australia;

- (f) how Australia's deposit guarantee (and wholesale funding guarantee) scheme compares with guarantees offered in other countries and the way in which these schemes were introduced and changed in major overseas countries;
 - (g) the interaction between the deposit guarantee scheme and other recent measures implemented by the Government, including the wholesale funding guarantee and the recent purchases of residential mortgage backed securities;
 - (h) the nature of the financial and economic distortions that the unlimited deposit guarantee scheme has created vis-à-vis savings products that are not covered by the guarantee scheme;
 - (i) the optimal cap for the deposit guarantee in the light of international experience;
 - (j) recommendations for ameliorating the moral hazard associated with the deposit guarantee and wholesale funding guarantees;
 - (k) recommendations for policies to credibly remove the wholesale funding guarantee and to reduce the deposit guarantee to the recommended optimal cap;
 - (l) the effects of the bank deposit guarantee and wholesale funding guarantee on competition within the financial sector;
 - (m) the effects of the announcement of the unlimited bank deposit guarantee and unlimited wholesale funding guarantee on consumer and business confidence;
 - (n) the broader economic and social consequences of these distortions;
 - (o) the size and nature of the contingent liability that the unlimited deposit guarantee has created for Australian taxpayers; and
 - (p) other matters relevant to the bank deposit guarantee and wholesale funding guarantee that the committee considers appropriate.
- (2) That the committee consist of 7 senators, 4 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and 1 nominated by any minority party or independent senators.
- (3) That:
- (a) participating members may be appointed to the committee on the nomination of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate or any minority party or independent senator;
 - (b) participating members may participate in hearings of evidence and deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of members of the committee, but may not vote on any questions before the committee; and
 - (c) a participating member shall be taken to be a member of the committee for the purpose of forming a quorum of the committee if a majority of members of the committee is not present.
- (4) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all members have not been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (5) That the committee elect as chair one of the members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.

- (6) That the chair of the committee may, from time to time, appoint another member of the committee to be the deputy chair of the committee, and that the member so appointed act as chair of the committee at any time when there is no chair or the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee.
- (7) That, in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (8) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (9) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, the evidence taken and such interim recommendations as it may deem fit.
- (10) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President.
- (11) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such documents and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.

*325 **Senator Ferguson:** To move—That the temporary orders of the Senate of 15 October 2008 and 13 November 2008, relating to the abolition of questions to senators other than ministers and to chairs of committees, and the restructuring of question time, continue as temporary orders during 2009.

*326 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) expresses its concern about the ongoing shortage of air traffic controllers at Australian airports;
- (b) welcomes the Government's acknowledgement of the shortage in its *National aviation policy green paper*, released on 2 December 2008; and
- (c) calls on the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, given the delay before an aviation white paper is released and implemented, to intervene now to ensure Airservices Australia employs adequate numbers of air traffic controllers to achieve safety standards and allow airlines to run services on schedule.

*327 **Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (Senator Crossin):** To move—That the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee be authorised to hold a private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 4 December 2008, from 1.30 pm, in relation to its inquiry on the effectiveness of the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality.

*329 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the Green Cooling Council Ltd's highly significant and internationally-recognised work to facilitate a reduction in the use of high global warming potential hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) greenhouse gases in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry through the replacement of HFCs with natural refrigerants has been funded under a Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program grant of up to \$2 million over 4 years;

- (b) recognises that this is making a valuable contribution to reducing Australia's greenhouse emissions and preparing Australian industry for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, and without immediate measures the Green Cooling Council faces imminent termination;
 - (c) expresses concern that delays by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in making due payments in respect to the Green Cooling Council Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program grant has today caused the company to go into administration, and urges the Government to take urgent action to avoid termination of the project; and
 - (d) calls on the Government to ensure the ongoing success of the project.
- *330 **The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate asks the Minister responsible for the Australian Electoral Commission to:
- (a) furnish the Senate with reasons for rejecting the name Inglis Clark (Andrew Inglis Clark was a key contributor to the drafting of the Australian Constitution) for the Tasmanian seat of Denison; and
 - (b) seek to have the decision reconsidered.
- *331 **The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) welcomes the reported decision of the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ms Tebbutt) to spend \$1.23 million on a recovery plan for koalas, including revegetating koala habitat; and
 - (b) calls on the New South Wales Government to halt logging of any koala habitat forest including that in the Bermagui region on the state's south coast.

Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

- 1 **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 2 **Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (Land & Water Australia)—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 3 **Bureau of Meteorology—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 4 **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).

- 5 **Australian Communications and Media Authority—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 6 **Airservices Australia—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 7 **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 8 **Wet Tropics Management Authority—Report for 2007-08, including State of the Wet Tropics report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 9 **Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 10 **Australian Customs Service—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 11 **Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 12 **Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts—Reports for 2007-08—**
 - Volume 1—Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**
 - Volume 2—Legislation**Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 13 **National Transport Commission—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bushby, 13 November 2008*).
- 14 **Australian Bureau of Statistics—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 15 **Commonwealth Ombudsman—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 16 **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).

- 17 **Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited (Teaching Australia)—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 18 **Australian Electoral Commission—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 19 **Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Williams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 20 **Australian Fair Pay Commission—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Adams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 21 **Australian Fair Pay Commission Secretariat—Report for 2007-08**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Adams—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Boyce, 13 November 2008*).
- 22 **Department of Immigration and Citizenship—Report for 2007-08—Correction**
Consideration (*24 November 2008*).
- 23 **National Health and Medical Research Council—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (*24 November 2008*).
- 24 **Sugar Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (*24 November 2008*).
- 25 **Australian River Co. Limited—Report for 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).
- 26 **Audio-Visual Copyright Society Limited (Screenrights)—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).
- 27 **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).
- 28 **Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).
- 29 **General Practice Education and Training Limited—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).
- 30 **Aged Care Act 1997—Report for 2007-08 on the operation of the Act**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).
- 31 **Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of appropriateness of detention arrangements—Personal identifiers 481/08 to 491/08—Government response to reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, dated 24 November 2008**
Consideration (*25 November 2008*).

- 32 **Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of appropriateness of detention arrangements—Personal identifiers 481/08 to 491/08—Reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman**
Consideration (25 November 2008).
- 33 **Crimes Act 1914—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Report for 2007-08—Australian Crime Commission**
Consideration (25 November 2008).
- 34 **National Rural Advisory Council—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (25 November 2008).
- 35 **Australian Fisheries Management Authority—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (25 November 2008).
- 36 **Schools Assistance (Learning Together—Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004—Report on financial assistance granted to each state in respect of 2007**
Consideration (26 November 2008).
- 37 **Crimes Act 1914—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Report for 2007-08—Australian Customs Service**
Consideration (26 November 2008).
- 38 **Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post)—Equal employment opportunity program—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (26 November 2008).
- 39 **Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (26 November 2008).
- 40 **Bilateral treaty—Text, together with national interest analysis—Agreement between the Government of Australia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on the Security of Information, done At New York on 26 September 2007**
Consideration (26 November 2008).
- 41 **Australian Public Service Commission—State of the service—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 42 **Telstra Sale Company Limited—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 43 **Administrative Review Council—Report no. 49: Administrative accountability in business areas subject to complex and specific regulation, dated November 2008**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 44 **Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Panel Selection Committee—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (2 December 2008).

- 45 **Snowy Hydro Limited—Financial report for the period 1 July 2007 to 28 June 2008**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 46 **Skills Australia—Report for the period 20 March to 30 June 2008**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 47 **Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2008**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 48 **Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997—Quarterly report on the maximum movement limit for Sydney Airport for the period 1 April to 30 June 2008**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- 49 **Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997—Quarterly report on the maximum movement limit for Sydney Airport for the period 1 July to 30 September 2008**
Consideration (2 December 2008).
- *50 **Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Anglo-Australian Observatory—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (3 December 2008).
- *51 **ASC Pty Ltd—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (3 December 2008).
- *52 **Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 2007-08**
Consideration (3 December 2008).
- *53 **Multilateral treaty—Text, together with national interest analysis—Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York, 13 December 2006**
Consideration (3 December 2008).

Orders 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*).
- 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 (*13 February 2008*).

- 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*).
- 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*).
- 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*).
- 8 **Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*14 February 2008*).
- 9 **Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*14 February 2008*).
- 10 **Marriage (Relationships Equality) Amendment Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Nettle*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*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*).
- 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*).
- 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 (*Senator Heffernan, in continuation, 4 September 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 (*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*).
- 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*).
- 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 (*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 (*20 March 2008*).
- 51 **Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown*)
Second reading (*restored 14 May 2008*).
- 52 **Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of grocery prices) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 15 May 2008*).
- 54 **Parliamentary (Judicial Misbehaviour or Incapacity) Commission Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Kirk*)
Second reading (*restored 15 May 2008*).

55 Budget 2008-09

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate acknowledges that the first Rudd-Gillard Government budget is a high taxing, high spending, old fashioned Labor budget that is not inflation fighting (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas), in continuation, 15 May 2008*).

56 Crimes Legislation Amendment (Enhanced Child Protection from Predatory Tourism Offences) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Bernardi)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bernardi, in continuation, 17 June 2008*).

57 Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 19 June 2008*).

58 Pregnancy Counselling (Truth in Advertising) Bill 2006 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Senators Stott Despoja and Nettle)

Second reading (*restored 19 June 2008*).

59 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Control of Power Station Emissions) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison)

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

60 Indigenous Australians—The Northern Territory emergency response: One year on—Ministerial statement

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Siewert, in continuation, 19 June 2008*).

62 Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No. 2]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Johnston)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 25 September 2008*).

63 Building and Construction Industry (Restoring Workplace Rights) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Siewert)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Siewert, in continuation, 28 August 2008*).

64 Emergency Water (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Xenophon)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Xenophon, in continuation, 28 August 2008*).

65 Family and Community Services—Cost of living pressures

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bernardi—That the Senate notes:

- (a) that many Australians are worse off today than they were in 2007;
- (b) that many Australians are experiencing difficulties due to increasing cost of living pressures; and
- (c) the Government's failure to address these difficulties (*Senator O'Brien, in continuation, 28 August 2008*).

- 66 **Flags (Protection of Australian Flags) Amendment Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Barnett)*
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Barnett, in continuation, 3 September 2008*).
- 67 **Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising (Broadcasting Amendment) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bob Brown, in continuation, 4 September 2008*).
- 68 **ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Xenophon)*
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Xenophon, in continuation, 4 September 2008*).
- 69 **Emergency Assistance Fund for the Lower Lakes and Coorong Region of South Australia Bill 2008 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Minchin*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fisher, in continuation, 4 September 2008*).
- 70 **Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Ludlam*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Ludlam, in continuation, 17 September 2008*).
- 71 **Restoring Territory Rights (Voluntary Euthanasia Legislation) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bob Brown, in continuation, 17 September 2008*).
- 72 **Economics—Management of the economy**
 Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Fifield—That the Senate condemns the Rudd Government for its reckless management of the Australian economy in a time of global economic challenge, including:
 - (a) the Government's irresponsibility in talking down the Australian economy;
 - (b) the massive collapse in consumer and business confidence since the election of the Rudd Government;
 - (c) the delivery of a budget that forecasts an increase in unemployment;
 - (d) the Government's raising of inflationary expectations and failure to honour its promise to address cost of living pressures; and
 - (e) the absence of a coherent economic strategy and a focus on presentation rather than policy (*Senator Williams, in continuation, 18 September 2008*).
- 73 **Stolen Generations Reparations Tribunal Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Siewert)*
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Siewert, in continuation, 24 September 2008*).
- 75 **Environment—Caring for our country—Ministerial statement**
 Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Siewert—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Macdonald, in continuation, 25 September 2008*).

- 76 **Renewable Energy Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff for Electricity) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)**—(Senator Milne)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (Senator Arbib, in continuation, 13 November 2008).
- 78 **Renewable Energy Amendment (Increased Mandatory Renewable Energy Target) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)**—(Senator Milne)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (Senator Milne, in continuation, 27 November 2008).
- *79 **Water Amendment (Saving the Goulburn and Murray Rivers) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)**—(Senator Birmingham)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (Senator Birmingham, in continuation, 3 December 2008).

BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

On 18 December 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

74 Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Ludlam)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (Senator Ludlam, in continuation, 25 September 2008).

Next day of sitting (3 February 2008)

Government Business—Orders of the Day

*1 **Auditor-General Amendment Bill 2008—(Senate bill)**—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (3 December 2008).

*2 **Corporations Amendment (No. 1) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)**—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (3 December 2008).

*3 **Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008—(Senate bill)**—(Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (3 December 2008).

*4 **Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Medical Devices and Other Measures) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (3 December 2008).

General Business—Notices of Motion

Notice given 4 September 2008

- 183 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006* to require the implementation of identified energy efficiency opportunities, and for related purposes. ***Energy Efficiency Opportunities Amendment (Mandatory Implementation) Bill 2008.***

Notice given 13 October 2008

- 233 **Senator Xenophon:** To move—That there be laid on the table by 1 November 2009 a report by the Productivity Commission on:
- (a) the total number and proportion of privately insured patients, in the latest 6-month period for which data is available prior to the report being issued, who were fully informed of the cost of hospital and specialist services before providing consent for treatment, in both public and private hospitals;
 - (b) the comparative hospital, and medical, costs for each defined group of clinically similar procedures, as per the classification of Australian Refined Diagnostic Related Groups, as performed by the public and private hospital sectors separately in the latest 6-month period for which data is available prior to the report being issued; and
 - (c) the rate (i.e. the number and proportion of all admissions) of hospital-acquired infections, by type, reported by individual public and private hospitals in the latest 6-month period for which data is available prior to the report being issued.

On 12 February 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Tax Agent Services Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

On 23 February 2009

General Business—Notice of Motion

Notice given 26 August 2008

- 156 **Senator Siewert:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to prohibit the addition of synthetic trans fatty acids to food, and for related purposes. ***Food Safety (Trans Fats) Bill 2008.***

On 24 February 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the exposure draft of the Personal Property Securities Bill 2008.

On 26 February 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on bank mergers.

Last sitting day of February 2009 (26 February 2009)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

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

Report to be presented on the effectiveness of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and other programs in protecting threatened species and ecological communities.

On 27 February 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Fair Work Bill 2008.

On 10 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

Government Business—Order of the Day

1 **Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Special Minister of State, Senator Faulkner)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (26 November 2008).

On the tenth sitting day of 2009 (12 March 2009)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Standing Committees**

Reports to be presented on annual reports tabled by 31 October 2008.

On 12 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Report to be presented on natural resource management and conservation challenges.

2 **Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the oversight of the child care industry.

On 17 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Standing Committees**

Reports to be presented on the 2008-09 additional estimates.

On 19 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Report to be presented on the import risk analysis for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines.

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

Report to be presented on matters specified in part (2) of the inquiry into the management of the Murray-Darling Basin system.

On the last sitting day of March 2009 (19 March 2009)

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the implementation of recommendations of committee reports on child migration and Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children.

2 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on petrol sniffing and substance abuse in central Australia.

On 20 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on Australia's research and training capacity in the area of climate change.

On 30 March 2009

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Second report to be presented.

2 **National Broadband Network—Select Committee**

Final report to be presented.

On 29 April 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on residential and community aged care in Australia.

On 30 May 2009

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Report to be presented on economic and security challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the island states of the southwest Pacific.

2 **Men's Health—Select Committee**

Report to be presented.

On 15 June 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008. (Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.)

General Business—Order of the Day

77 **Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (Senator Bob Brown, in continuation, 11 November 2008).

On 23 June 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Standing Committees**

Reports to be presented on the 2009-10 Budget estimates.

On 30 June 2009

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Report to be presented on the establishment of an Australian Football League team for Tasmania.

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

Final report to be presented on meat marketing.

3 **Agricultural and Related Industries—Select Committee**

Final report to be presented on the pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global fertiliser market.

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 21 October 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Fuel and Energy—Select Committee**

Report to be presented.

On the last sitting day of 2009 (26 November 2009)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the impact of gene patents on the provision of healthcare in Australia.

On 27 November 2009

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Agricultural and Related Industries—Select Committee**

Report to be presented on food production in Australia.

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.

Date unspecified

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on the 2007 Federal Election, including the Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008.

General Business—Order of the Day

- 50 **Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008—**
(Senate bill)—(*Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bob Brown, in continuation, 14 May 2008*).

BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008

Referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (*referred 14 May 2008*).

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee (*referred 25 September 2008; reporting date varied 14 October and 2 December 2008; reporting date: 18 December 2008*).

Fair Work Bill 2008 [Provisions]

Referred to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee (*referred upon the introduction of the bill in the House of Representatives, 25 November 2008; bill introduced 25 November 2008; reporting date: 27 February 2009*).

Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Finance and Public Administration Committee (*referred 26 November 2008; reporting date: 10 March 2009*).

Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Finance and Public Administration Committee (*referred 13 November 2008; reporting date varied 25 November 2008; reporting date: 15 June 2009*).

Tax Agent Services Bill 2008 [Provisions]‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 26 November 2008; reporting date: 12 February 2009*).

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 DISCHARGED OR 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.

National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008

National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008

Second reading negatived, 12 November 2008.

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008

Second reading negatived, 28 August 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008

Third reading negatived, 26 June 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008

A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008

A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008

A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008

Second reading negatived, 4 September 2008.

Second reading moved again, 17 September 2008, and agreed to, 22 September 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008

Second reading negatived, 24 September 2008.

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008

Discharged from *Notice Paper*, 17 June 2008.

Private senators' bills**Migration Legislation Amendment (Complementary Protection Visas) Bill 2006 [2008]**

Second reading negatived, 20 March 2008.

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008

Discharged from *Notice Paper*, 11 November 2008.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions remaining unanswered

Question Nos, as shown, from 38 to 763 remain unanswered for 30 or more days (see standing order 74(5)).

Notice given 12 February 2008

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.

38 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs

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.

142 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs

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.

250 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs

Notice given 30 May 2008

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 441-476)—Since 1 July 2006: (a) has the department or any agency in the Minister's portfolio engaged: (i) CMAX Communications, (ii) Maximum Communications, (iii) Mr Christian Taubenschlag, (iv) Ms Tara Taubenschlag, or (v) any company operated by Mr Christian Taubenschlag or Ms Tara Taubenschlag; and (b) if so, in each case: (i) when was the engagement, (ii) what was the nature of the engagement, (iii) what was the value of the engagement, (iv) what was the term of the engagement, (v) was the engagement entered into after a competitive process; if not, why not, and (vi) did the Minister or any of his/her staff have a role in recommending this engagement.

465 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs

Notice given 25 August 2008

574 **Senator Minchin:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) How many new Government websites (i.e. additional '.gov.au' domain names) have been created since 18 December 2007.
- (2) What are these websites.
- (3) Who designed these websites.
- (4) Who updates and maintains the content on each website.
- (5) How many staff in each department are employed to maintain these websites.
- (6) What was the total cost for the design of each website.

575 **Senator Minchin:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) Since the Prime Minister was sworn in, how many Heads of Missions in Australia have met with the Prime Minister.
- (2) How many times has each Head of Mission met with the Prime Minister.

577 **Senator Minchin:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the Prime Minister's travel in August 2008 to China, the Republic of Korea and Singapore:

- (1) For each country visited, what was the total cost of the Prime Minister's: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (2) How many personal staff accompanied the Prime Minister and Ms Rein.
- (3) What was the role of each of the personal staff who travelled with the Prime Minister.

- (4) In regard to staff and family accompanying the Prime Minister, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (5) (a) How many departmental officers accompanied the Prime Minister for all or part of the travel; and (b) for what period did they accompany the Prime Minister.
- (6) In regard to the departmental officers, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (7) How many Olympic events did the Prime Minister, his family, staff and departmental officials attend.
- (8) How many staff, family and departmental officials accompanied the Prime Minister to each individual Olympic sporting event attended in Beijing.

578 **Senator Minchin:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) How many ministers and/or parliamentary secretaries travelled overseas during July and August 2008.
- (2) (a) Which ministers and parliamentary secretaries travelled overseas; (b) where did they travel; and (c) what was the duration of this travel.

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 579-614)—

- (1) What are the department's guidelines on the purchasing of carbon offsets for air travel.
- (2) In 2008, how many flights undertaken by departmental officials were carbon offsets purchased, and of these, how many were purchased for: (a) business class fares; and (b) economy class fares.
- (3) In the 2007-08 financial year, what was the additional cost to the department of purchasing carbon offsets for travel.

583 Minister representing the Treasurer

603 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer (*transferred to the Minister representing the Treasurer on 13 November 2008*)

604 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs (*transferred to the Minister representing the Treasurer on 13 November 2008*)

611 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (*transferred to the Minister representing the Treasurer on 13 November 2008*)

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 615-650)—

- (1) How many departmental officers are working in the office of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary.
- (2) How many of these staff are Departmental Liaison Officers.
- (3) How many departmental officers, on secondment from the department, are in the office of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary in personal staff positions.

616 Minister representing the Minister for Education

617 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

618 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion

620 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

621 Special Minister of State

622 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

623 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

- 625 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 627 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 628 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 629 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 631 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 639 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 640 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 641 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 644 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 27 August 2008*)
- 648 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 27 August 2008*)
- 649 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 27 August 2008*)
- 650 Minister representing the Minister for Sport (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 27 August 2008*)

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 651-686)—

- (1) Did the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary within the Minister's portfolio attend any event at the Beijing Olympic Games; if so, which events did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary attend.
- (2) Was the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary accompanied by: (a) family; (b) personal staff; and (c) departmental officials; if so, how many.
- (3) Did any officials from the department attend the Beijing Olympic Games in their capacity as an employee of the Australian Government; if so, how many and in what capacity did they attend.
- (4) In regard to the attendance by the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary and/or departmental officials at the Beijing Olympic Games, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.

- 651 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 652 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 653 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 654 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 655 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 656 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 657 Special Minister of State
- 658 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 659 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 660 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 661 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 662 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 663 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 664 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

- 665 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 666 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 667 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 668 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 669 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 670 Minister for Human Services
- 671 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 672 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 673 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 674 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 675 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer (*transferred to the Minister representing the Treasurer on 27 November 2008*)
- 676 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs (*transferred to the Minister representing the Treasurer on 27 November 2008*)
- 677 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 678 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 679 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 680 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 27 August 2008*)
- 681 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 28 August 2008*)
- 682 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 683 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (*transferred to the Minister representing the Treasurer on 27 November 2008*)
- 684 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 27 August 2008*)
- 685 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 27 August 2008*)
- 686 Minister representing the Minister for Sport (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 27 August 2008*)

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 687-722)—Did the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary within the Minister's portfolio travel overseas during July or August 2008; if so:

- (1) Where did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travel.
- (2) What was the duration of the travel.
- (3) What was the purpose of the travel.
- (4) For each country visited, what was the total cost to the taxpayer of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (5) How many personal staff accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary.
- (6) How many family members accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary.

- (7) In regard to staff and family accompanying the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (8) (a) How many departmental officers accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary; and (b) what was the total cost of their: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

687 Minister representing the Prime Minister
688 Minister representing the Minister for Education
689 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
690 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
691 Minister representing the Treasurer
692 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
693 Special Minister of State
694 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
695 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
696 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
697 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
698 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
699 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
700 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
701 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
702 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
703 Minister for Climate Change and Water
704 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
705 Minister representing the Attorney-General
706 Minister for Human Services
707 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
708 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
709 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
710 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
711 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
712 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
713 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
714 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
715 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
716 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 27 August 2008*)
717 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 28 August 2008*)
718 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
719 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law

- 720 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 27 August 2008*)
- 721 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 27 August 2008*)
- 722 Minister representing the Minister for Sport (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing on 27 August 2008*)
- 723 **Senator Minchin:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the answer (PM 41) provided on notice to Senator Fierravanti-Wells during the 2008-09 Budget estimates hearing of the Finance and Public Administration Committee:
- (1) (a) How many family, personal staff and departmental officials accompanied the Prime Minister on his travel to: (i) Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan, (ii) East Timor, (iii) Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and (iv) the United States of America, Belgium, Romania, the United Kingdom and China; and (b) what was the role of each personal staff member travelling with the Prime Minister.
 - (2) In regard to the Prime Minister's travel to Japan and Indonesia between 8 June and 14 June 2008: (a) what was the total cost to the taxpayer of the Prime Minister's: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses; (b) how many personal staff accompanied the Prime Minister and Ms Rein; (c) what was the role of each personal staff member; (d) what was the total cost for staff and family travelling with the Prime Minister in relation to: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses; and (e) how many departmental officers accompanied the Prime Minister; and what was the total cost of their: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

Notice given 27 August 2008

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 724-725)—With reference to the Prime Minister's visit to New York in early 2008:

- (1) On what dates did the Prime Minister visit New York.
- (2) Where did the Prime Minister stay during his visit.
- (3) Who accompanied the Prime Minister.
- (4) Where did accompanying staff stay during the visit.
- (5) What was the total cost of the visit.
- (6) Have any alterations, refurbishments or décor changes been made to the Australian Mission to the United Nations residence in New York during 2008; if so: (a) what was the nature of these alterations, refurbishments or décor changes; (b) what was the itemised and total cost of these alterations, refurbishments or décor changes; and (c) at whose instigation were these alterations, refurbishments or décor changes made to the residence.

724 Minister representing the Prime Minister

725 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Notice given 2 September 2008

730 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Chair of the Economics Committee—

- (1) What was the urgency for releasing the committee's interim report *National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008*.
- (2) Were there communications between the office of the Chair, or the Chair herself, and the office of the Assistant Treasurer or the office of the Prime Minister, on the issuing of this report; if so, what was the: (a) time; (b) duration; and (c) medium, of each of these communications.

Notice given 24 September 2008

743 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the seminar at the University of Newcastle on 23 September 2008, 'The koala: Future of an icon', and in particular the associated paper by Dr Stephen Jackson:

- (1) What is the Government's plan to ensure the prosperity of koalas and their survival in regions where they persist.
- (2) What are the chances of the koala becoming extinct, locally in such regions or nationally.
- (3) What review of the status of the koala has the Government undertaken, when and by whom.
- (4) What possible impact will imminently proposed logging of forests in south east New South Wales and East Gippsland have on koalas, and in particular logging near Bermagui.

Notice given 25 September 2008

744 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the Government's action plan to help or protect Australian home owners from economic circumstances, similar to those in the United States of America, arising.
- (2) Does the Government foresee the collapse of any Australian investment company in 2008.

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 746-748)—With reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) How many contracts has the department or agency engaged in for the provision of media services since November 2007.
- (2) What was the total cost of these contracts.
- (3) What work have the contractors engaged in specifically or what work do they expect to undertake.
- (4) Was the contractor selected by tender; if so, was the tender select or open; if not, why not.

746 Minister representing the Prime Minister

747 Special Minister of State (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation on 3 December 2008*)

748 Minister for Climate Change and Water (*transferred to the Minister representing the Prime Minister on 29 October 2008*)

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 750-751)—Since the Minister took office on 3 December 2007:

- (1) (a) What overseas travel was undertaken by the Minister; (b) what was the purpose of the Minister's travel; (c) when did the Minister depart Australia; and (d) when did the Minister return to Australia.
- (2) (a) What staff travelled with the Minister; (b) what duties were they expected to perform while overseas; and (c) were they paid an allowance; if so, how much.
- (3) For each trip to the United States of America: (a) with whom did the Minister conduct official meetings; and (b) what was the purpose of those meetings.
- (4) (a) On how many of these trips was the Minister accompanied by a business delegation; and (b) can details be provided of any delegation accompanying the Minister.
- (5) Who met the cost of travel and other expenses associated with each trip.
- (6) What was the total of the travel and associated expenses that were met by the department in relation to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; (c) the Minister's staff; and (d) departmental and/or agency staff.
- (7) What was the total cost, including but not necessarily limited to, fares, allowances, accommodation, hospitality, insurance and other costs, of the visit for: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; and (c) the Minister's staff.
- (8) What was the total cost, including but not necessarily limited to, fares, allowances, accommodation, hospitality, insurance and other costs, of the visit for each departmental and/or agency officer.

750 Minister representing the Prime Minister

751 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Notice given 16 October 2008

755 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law—In regard to the \$8 billion worth of AAA rated residential mortgage-backed securities the Government has directed the Australian Office of Financial Management to purchase from non-authorized deposit-taking institution lenders, and given that the credibility of the credit rating agencies has recently been undermined by their role in the financial crisis: How is the Government ensuring that the securities genuinely deserve their AAA rating and are not putting public funds at undue risk.

Notice given 28 October 2008

758 **Senator Wortley:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

- (1) Has Australia Post ever been subject to legal action relating to an allegation of unfair contracts in regard to a mail contract; if so, what was the outcome.
- (2) In the answer provided to question no. 25/26 taken on notice by Australia Post during the 2008-09 Budget estimates hearing of the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee, Australia Post said that in 2007 it accepted 15 tenders where the tenderer's labour rate was below the federal minimum wage: Can Australia Post expand on the answer it gave to

the question, giving reasons of how it would be satisfied accepting a tender where the labour rate was below the federal minimum wage.

- (3) Has the number of Australia Post staff working solely on Licensed Post Office (LPO) matters decreased or increased in the past 5 years.
- (4) Can details be provided, year-by-year, of the Australia Post staff which are dedicated to managing the LPO network.
- (5) Of the staff dedicated to managing LPOs: (a) how many have ever owned an LPO; and (b) do any have experience owning a small business.
- (6) Has Australia Post ever considered hiring people with experience as licensees to be involved in the management of the LPO network.
- (7) How many Australia Post staff are dedicated to managing mail contractors at a national and state level.
- (8) What role do local Delivery Centre managers have in managing mail contractors.
- (9) As a Government Business Enterprise, Australia Post has a strong obligation to behave ethically while operating in a commercial environment: (a) can Australia Post guarantee that child labour was not used to produce any of the products stocked in its corporate post offices; and (b) what procedures does Australia Post have in place to ensure that the products it sells are produced ethically.

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 759-760)—Given the Government has previously stated that it will spend up to \$4.7 billion of taxpayers' money on a National Broadband Network: Does this figure still represent the Government's absolute maximum contribution.

759 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (*transferred to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on 30 October 2008*)

760 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Notice given 30 October 2008

Senator Abetz: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 761-763)—

- (1) Since the 2007 Federal Election, on how many occasions has there been communications between the Minister and:
 - (a) the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia;
 - (b) the head of the Australian Office of Financial Management;
 - (c) the head of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority;
 - (d) the head of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission;
 - (e) the Secretary of the United States Department of the Treasury;
 - (f) the head of the United States Federal Reserve;
 - (g) the head of the Australian Stock Exchange;
 - (h) the head of each of Australia's major banks (Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Westpac Banking Corporation, National Australia Bank, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ));
 - (i) the head of the World Bank; and
 - (j) the head of the International Monetary Fund.
- (2) For each separate communication in (1) please provide details of: (a) date; (b) place; (c) medium; and (d) duration.

761 Minister representing the Prime Minister

762 Minister representing the Treasurer

763 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation

Notice given 7 November 2008

765 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—What are the estimated implications for Australian forestry and land clearing emissions if the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry emissions sectors were to be listed in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol.

766 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) In regard to the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme: Will any of the workers involved in this scheme be permitted/allowed/eligible to be employed to undertake work tasks and activities associated with forestry industry operations including, but not limited to, the planting of trees for plantations or carbon sink purposes, or the maintenance, harvesting and/or processing of an existing tree plantation or native forest, anywhere within Australia.
- (2) Given that forestry operations and associated work activities are considered to be an ‘agricultural’ activity in Australia, are there any reasons, processes, procedures or guidelines which preclude workers under the scheme from being employed to undertake forestry-related work activities.

767 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) Were any of the hydrodynamic modelling reports, including addendums, and any additional modelling reports prepared by consultants on behalf of Gunns Limited for the pulp mill at Long Reach in Tasmania, peer reviewed by any: (a) specialists within the department; if so: (i) by whom, and (ii) what were their findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations; and (b) third parties; if so: (i) by whom, and (ii) what were their findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations.
- (2) Did any of the hydrodynamic modelling reports including addendums and any additional modelling reports prepared by consultants on behalf of Gunns Limited for the pulp mill at Long Reach contain any assumptions; if so, what was each assumption.

768 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to condition 26 and modules B and C of the Environmental Impact Management Plan for the Gunns Limited pulp mill in Tasmania:

- (1) What is ‘zero tolerance’ and how will it be achieved.
- (2) How and within what area/locale will existing threatened and endangered species populations be recorded, documented and compared against the construction impact of the pulp mill.
- (3) What is the radius in kilometres from the mill site for ‘zero tolerance’.
- (4) Does ‘zero tolerance’ extend to construction crew traffic including, but not limited to, four-wheel drive and private vehicles.
- (5) Is the ‘zero tolerance’ assessment self-regulating.
- (6) If road kill is found and it is a threatened or endangered species, are there any mitigation mechanisms in place; if so, what.

- (7) Taking into consideration those employees that will come from interstate, overseas and Tasmania: how will all employees recognise a threatened or endangered species.
- (8) (a) How is compliance and non-compliance to be monitored and reported; and (b) what penalties are in place for non-compliance in regard to threatened and endangered species.
- (9) Considering that Gunns Limited did not complete the road kill module B, (condition 26) as directed by the Chief Scientist Dr Jim Peacock, has the Minister lowered the bar with implementing 'zero tolerance' and abandoned the Government's commitment to a 'most rigorous' assessment process.
- (10) Does the Government's current threatened and endangered species assessment process satisfy the intent of the Chief Scientist.
- (11) Given that apparently only one study has been performed and acknowledged at Low Head near the pipeline outfall, and given that the Minister for Climate Change and Water has assured Parliament that research identifying habitat/population locations of the threatened green and gold frog have been performed along the proposed pipeline route: where, when and who performed the other studies.
- (12) What measures are in place for newly identified green and gold frog populations if they are found near the pulp mill site or associated infrastructure (i.e. pipeline).

769 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—

- (1) In regard to regional loading under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines: (a) what is the additional cost to Western Australian institutions of providing tertiary education to regional students; (b) how has this figure been calculated; (c) how often and how does the Government review the adequacy of the regional loading process; and (d) when is the next review.
- (2) In regard to student income support, will the Government: (a) reduce the age of independence from 25 to 18; (b) increase the parental income threshold; (c) align payments to above the poverty line; (d) exempt scholarships from the income test; and (e) increase and index, on an annual basis, the income free area.

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

- (1) How much carbon is estimated to be currently stored in the harvested wood product pool in Australia.
- (2) Is the harvested wood product carbon pool assessed as increasing or decreasing since 1990.
- (3) What is the estimated average decay rate for Australia's harvested wood product pool.
- (4) What is the estimated impact on ecologically-sustainable forest management from accounting for harvested wood products.
- (5) What is the Government's preferred carbon accounting framework for harvested wood products.

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

- (1) Has the Papua New Guinean Government accepted the Australian Government's initial \$3 million contribution to the Papua New Guinea-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership.

- (2) Has the Australian Government received any correspondence from the Papua New Guinean Government that indicates their intention to refuse Australia's \$3 million contribution; if so, what is the basis and/or reason for the refusal.
- (3) Are the Forest Carbon partnerships with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea conditional upon the implementation of Australia's National Carbon Accounting System.
- (4) Is the Clinton Foundation partnership contingent on the implementation of the National Carbon Accounting System in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

772 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What is the estimated volume of illegally-harvested sawn timber and timber products imported to Australia from Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.
- (2) What is the estimated volume of illegally-harvested Papua New Guinean and Indonesian sawn timber and timber products imported to Australia from China.
- (3) What is the estimated volume of plywood manufactured from illegally-harvested timber imported to Australia.
- (4) What is the estimated loss in revenue to the Australian Government of illegally-harvested imported timber by product type.
- (5) What are the social impacts of illegal logging operations.

773 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Has the department or any of its agencies carried out work since 2004 on the: (a) carbon sequestration potential of Kyoto-compliant plantations or native forest restoration; (b) effect of emissions trading (or a carbon tax) on existing Kyoto-compliant plantations, in respect of rotation lengths and their use for wood production; (c) relationship between carbon price and the rate and extent of plantation establishment and native forest restoration if these activities are included in the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme; (d) impact of tax deductions for carbon sinks and/or managed investment schemes on the rate and extent of plantation establishment and native forest restoration; (e) impact on wood production from native forests as a result of including Kyoto-compliant plantations in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.
- (2) (a) Can a list be provided of all projects, consultancies, publications or other work relating to question (1) above, giving the title, authors, date, cost (if a consultancy) and a brief summary; and (b) can a copy of each report, publication or document be provided.

774 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) Further to the answer to question on notice no. 558 (*Senate Hansard*, 27 August 2008, p. 3 975), concerning the Gunns Limited pipeline and populations of the green and gold frog, the department's response indicated that the frog survey has been conducted and completed: can the Minister now confirm the presence of green and gold frogs (*Litoria raniformis*) in the Dilston and Windermere areas.

- (2) (a) Has the green and gold frog survey been completed to the Minister's satisfaction as directed by the Chief Scientist; and (b) what were the dates, locality and times of the surveys, and who conducted each one.
- (3) In the absence of data, can the Minister confirm that the Dilston, Windermere, Hillwood and Landfall areas will be suitably surveyed for the presence of the green and gold frog.
- (4) In the absence of data, can the Minister confirm that the entire region proposed for the length of the Gunns Limited pipeline will be surveyed for green and gold frog populations and other threatened species.
- (5) Can the Minister give an assurance that the area to be affected by the Gunns Limited pipeline and the East Tamar Highway Dilston bypass will be surveyed for the amphibian chytrid fungus prior to any formal approval or the commencement of actual development work.

775 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—In regard to the proposed HRL Limited coal-fired power station in Victoria's Latrobe Valley:

- (1) Given the Government has committed \$100 million under the Federal Low Emissions Technology Demonstration Fund to HRL Limited for use towards the proposed 'clean coal' power plant in Gippsland: (a) are there any performance benchmarks/conditions on which this grant is contingent in regard to development timelines and technical performance of the facility; if so, what are they; and (b) are these conditions and/or benchmarks explained in government documents; if so: (i) what are the document titles, and (ii) are these documents publicly available; if not, will they become publicly available.
- (2) Has this grant already been provided to HRL Limited.
- (3) Have any contracts been signed with HRL Limited.
- (4) If no contracts have been signed with HRL Limited: will any contracts be entered into with HRL Limited in relation to the \$100 million grant; if so, what is the expected timeline for contractual sign-off.
- (5) Apart from the project description as provided in media releases, does the Government have any documentation which contains a more detailed project description; if so, can copies be provided of the documentation and/or the titles.
- (6) Will the project replace any current coal-fired generation or will it be additional.
- (7) Will the plant result in a rise in Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.
- (8) Where will the project be sited.
- (9) Has community consultation begun in relation to the location of the project; if so, can any relevant process information be provided.
- (10) How much water will the plant use each year.
- (11) (a) What is the estimated water use per megawatt hour and how does such usage compare with existing brown coal generators in the Latrobe Valley; (b) where will this water come from; and (c) will market rates be paid for this water.
- (12) Given that the proponents claim that the project will be 30 per cent less polluting than an equivalent-sized conventional brown coal power station and use 50 per cent less water: will meeting these performance levels be a condition of receiving the \$100 million grant from the Government.

- (13) (a) Where else is the Integrated Drying Gasification and Combined Cycle technology in use; and (b) is using this technology meeting the abovementioned performance improvements in relation to water use and pollution output.
- (14) Will the project be required to implement carbon capture and storage.

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

- (1) In regard to the answer to question on notice no. 726 (Senate *Hansard*, 13 October 2008, p. 92), concerning the construction of irrigation pipelines from the Meander River via water release from the Meander Dam in Tasmania, in which the Minister advised that \$140 million had been allocated to the Tasmanian Government to support efficient irrigation projects and that this funding was subject to Tasmania's agreement to a range of conditions related to the implementation of the National Water Initiative: what conditions must the Tasmanian Government comply with to meet their commitments to the National Water Initiative.
- (2) Has the Tasmanian Government failed to comply with any of these conditions; if so, which ones and what are the implications for Tasmania.

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

- (1) Does the Government intend for a market-based mechanism to involve private polluters being able to seek pollution credits from developing countries or land holders in developing countries.
- (2) Does the Government intend to limit the proportion of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) incentive credits entering the Australian Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme; if so, how.
- (3) What proportion of Australia's greenhouse emissions does the Government intend to allow to be offset under a market-based REDD incentive.
- (4) On what criteria was the Government's decision to 'argue' for a market-based mechanism based, and was the equitable distribution of incentives one of the criteria.
- (5) How does the Government intend to ensure that human rights are maintained under a fully fungible pure market-based REDD incentive mechanism.
- (6) How does the Government intend to avoid devaluing carbon prices from a potential flood of cheap REDD incentive credits into carbon markets.
- (7) Has the Government assessed alternatives to market-based REDD incentives; if so, what other models and/or mechanisms were assessed and what was the outcome and findings of such assessment.
- (8) Has the Government considered arguing for the auctioning of Kyoto assigned amount units contributing to a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change administered fund as an alternative to a fully fungible pure market-based REDD incentive mechanism; if so, on what basis was such a mechanism found to be inferior to a market-based mechanism.

778 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Are the Commonwealth Government, state governments and the agricultural industry cooperating to establish a national system for managing our agricultural plant genetic resources; if so, what policy mechanisms, funding arrangements and strategic goals (including time frames) are in place that binds each party to ongoing cooperation.
- (2) Is there a national guideline in place in regard to protecting and utilising Australian agricultural plant genetic resources; if so, what is the content of that guideline, and how and over what period of time will it be implemented.
- (3) Given that 16 reviews have been undertaken since 1992 into Australian agricultural plant genetic resources, what are the impediments to any national progress that required continuous review, and what steps is/will the Commonwealth Government take to remove all impediments to national progress.
- (4) Exactly how is Australia to meet and/or in what manner is Australia actually meeting its legally binding obligation under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to conserve globally-significant collections of plant genetic resources.
- (5) What are the Commonwealth Government's short-, medium- and long-term plans for Australia's collection of globally-unique agricultural plant genetic resources.
- (6) Which collection of plant genetic resources, including those managed by the states, have been placed under the auspices of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and which collections are therefore available to other countries to access under the treaty's multilateral system for sharing and access.
- (7) Have the Commonwealth and state governments clarified the intellectual property status of indigenous wild plant species of citrus, mung bean, rice, and sorghum that are listed in the international treaty; if so, what process was used to achieve clarification and what are the implications of such status.
- (8) Which countries have approached the Australian Government over the past 16 years and/or are seeking access to Australia's agricultural plant genetic resources.
- (9) Given that many indigenous wild plant species such as citrus, mung bean, rice and sorghum possess unique attributes of drought tolerance to changing climatic conditions, disease and pest resistance to combat changes in climate, provide nutritional quality for a more healthy diet, and may contain valuable new genes, what is the optimal use and best market for such species.

Notice given 10 November 2008

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

- (1) What are the details of the cross-border financing arrangement liability of \$US728 million for the Australian Advanced Air Traffic System listed in the Airservices Australia annual report since 2002-03.
- (2) Why was this cross-border financing arrangement entered into.

- (3) Did Airservices Australia enter into this agreement to exploit a loophole in the American tax system.
- (4) What are the 'exceptional, extreme and highly unlikely circumstances' that 'expert external advisers' have said would result in Airservices Australia paying money under the guarantees and indemnities it has entered.
- (5) Who are the 'expert external advisers' who provided this advice.
- (6) Have any payments been made to date to satisfy these guarantees and indemnities; if so, how much and for what reason.
- (7) What is the liability according to the current exchange rate.

Notice given 11 November 2008

- 780 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—Further to the answer to question on notice no. 736 (Senate *Hansard*, 16 October 2008, p. 102), concerning the failure of air traffic control in capital city areas:
- (1) What exactly happened on 31 August 2008 to delay four aircraft affected by staff unavailability for Canberra International Airport traffic control.
 - (2) Where did the problem occur.
 - (3) What back-up plan is in place to ensure such 'unavailability' does not recur at Australian airports.
 - (4) Was there any failure of air traffic control at Canberra International Airport at the times indicated in part (1) of the answer provided.
- 781 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—Was funding to the National Pollutant Inventory section of the department reduced in the 2008-09 Budget; if so: (a) by how much; and (b) what programs or activities have been affected.
- 782 **Senator Johnston:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—
- (1) How many Leopard tanks: (a) does the Australian Defence Force have; (b) have been offered as part of the decommissioning process; and (c) has the department retained for target practice.
 - (2) With reference to the decommissioning of the Australian Army's Leopard tanks in which the Government has offered the tanks free of charge with attached conditions: has the Minister been notified of which applicants have and have not been successful.
 - (3) Can a list of successful and unsuccessful applications be provided.
 - (4) What was the process in determining the successful bids.
 - (5) Has the Minister sought permission under the end-user agreement with Germany to dispose of the tanks; if so, can a copy of the documentation from the Leopard tank manufacturer and the German Government be provided.
- 783 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Special Minister of State—In regard to the answer to question on notice no. 741 (Senate *Hansard*, 10 November 2008, p. 123), concerning the investigation by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) into the legality of the disclosure and other matters relating to electoral donations made by the Exclusive Brethren during the 2004 federal election: what were the 'legitimate business transactions' identified by the AFP in the last sentence of the answer.

- 784 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—In regard to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Vehicle Conversion Scheme: Has any request been made to the Minister or the department to re-phase the scheme's funding from the forward estimates period to the 2008-09 financial year; if so: (a) on what date was the request made; (b) how much was requested to be brought forward; and (c) has a response been finalised; if so: (i) when was the response finalised, and (ii) was the re-phasing approved.

Notice given 12 November 2008

- 786 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Given that Australia pledged \$5 million to the United Nations for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, also known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal:
- (1) What will this money be spent on.
 - (2) What accountability mechanisms does the Australian Government have in place to ensure the \$5 million will be spent on the purposes for which it is given.

Notice given 13 November 2008

- 788 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—
- (1) (a) How much is the clothing allowance for the Governor-General; (b) on what basis is it paid; (c) with what regularity is it paid; and (d) does the Governor-General need to acquit it.
 - (2) With reference to the 2008-09 supplementary budget estimates hearing of the Finance and Public Administration Committee (Committee *Hansard*, 20 October 2008, p. F&PA 23) and Mr Brady's use of the term 'bipartisan' in relation to Her Excellency's role: Does Her Excellency see her role as being 'bipartisan' or 'non-partisan'.
- 789 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—Was the Australian Taxation Office consulted in relation to the: (a) definition of 'tourist activity' for the purposes of the amendments to the Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008 and related bills; if so, when did the consultations begin; and (b) drafting of regulations pursuant to the legislative changes; if so, when did the consultations begin.
- 790 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—
- (1) Prior to the passage of the legislation was the department consulted about the terminology of 'tourist activity' as found in the Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008 and related bills.
 - (2) Has the department been consulted since the passage of the legislation as to the definition that should be provided to the term 'tourist activity'.
 - (3) Was the department consulted: (a) about the increase in the luxury car tax before it was announced by the Government; (b) after the legislation was introduced into the Senate; and (c) about the amendments that were passed in the Senate as they might impact on the tourism sector.
 - (4) Does the department have any figures as to the number of vehicles that are purchased outright by tourist operators as opposed to leased.

- 791 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—
- (1) What analysis has the department done as to the total loss of revenue to be received by Australia's universities as a result of the decrease in anticipated revenue from: (a) investments; and (b) overseas student numbers.
 - (2) Can an assessment in relation to (1) above of each of Australia's universities be provided; if so, can the detail for each university be set out.
 - (3) With reference to an article on page 3 of *The Australian* of 1 October 2008, where it was reported that the Monash University was introducing a remedial writing course focused on 'language mechanics', such as basic grammar and punctuation: what is the anticipated cost to all of Australia's universities because of the 'dire state of English proficiency among first-year students'.
 - (4) Is the department or the Government making any representations to state educational bodies to redress this deficiency.
- 792 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the 2008-09 Budget estimates hearing of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, and further to the following answers:
- (1) In regard to the answer to question PM147b: how many days did Ms Hornsey work on the 2020 summit.
 - (2) In regard to the answer to question PM147c: can the amount paid to Ms Hornsey for accommodation, flights, meals etc. be itemised.
 - (3) In regard to the answer to question PM147f: was any consideration given to revoking Ms Hornsey's contract when her alleged role in interfering in the appointment of a magistrate in Tasmania was revealed; if not, why not.
 - (4) In regard to the answer to question PM75: (a) are there any written records indicating that Ms Hornsey's name was passed on from the Prime Minister's office to the department; if so, by whom; and (b) who recommended Ms Hornsey for the role.
- 793 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—With reference to the 2008-09 Budget estimates hearing of the Economics Committee:
- (1) In regard to the answer to question BI41, a figure was given of \$109 622.93 for the grand total of year-to-date payments as at 14 July 2008: is there an update on this figure; if so: (a) what is it; and (b) what amount of this figure accrues to each of: (i) Professor Alan Hughes, (ii) Professor Richard Lester, and (iii) Professor Stan Metcalf.
 - (2) In regard to the answer to question BI43: (a) what extra funding has been provided to the cooperative research centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management for its extension until 31 December 2008; (b) has the CRC for Innovative Dairy Products accepted the offer of an extension until 31 December 2009; if so, how much money has been allocated for this extension; and (c) has the CRC for Tropical Savannas Management accepted an offer of extension to their Commonwealth Agreement until 31 December 2009; if so, how much extra funding has been provided.
 - (3) In regard to the answer to question BI47: (a) on what basis has the exact yearly grant been calculated for each Business Enterprise Centre (BEC); and (b) how much will be allocated to each of the 36 BECs.

- (4) In regard to the answers to questions BI50 and BI53: (a) is it asserted that the Small Business Field Officer program did not provide the services referred to in BI53 as business planning advice on loans and banking products, simple marketing plans, legal and accounting services, leasing guidance, staff training programs, and programs that cater for the needs of women, please specify in relation to each one; and (b) do the BECs simply refer clients to lawyers, accountants and professionals in the various areas or do they provide the specific advice.
- (5) In regard to the answer to question BI54: has the department undertaken any analysis or investigation as part of determining the exact grant given to each BEC.
- (6) In regard to the answer to question BI55: was an analysis or investigation conducted or undertaken by the department to determine whether the BEC program would be effective; if so, what were they.
- (7) In regard to the answer to question BI69: (a) which certificates and professional, educational and vocational qualifications and certifications will be required as part of the funding agreement; and (b) will the department be undertaking an audit of each BEC as to the level of qualification of all officers.

794 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—With reference to the departments modelling, ‘Climate change mitigation policy modelling: Summary of assumptions and data sources’, dated 3 October 2008:

- (1) On what basis does the modelling suggest that Tasmania will have negative population growth from 2030 and onwards.
- (2) (a) Is the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme a tax or a form of taxation; and (b) how is it to be classified.
- (3) Why is the emissions intensity measure to be based on revenue as opposed to the value added provided.
- (4) Does the ‘revenue test’ discriminate against the manufacturers of products further down the production line.
- (5) How does the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme deal with the companies, enterprises and industry sectors that have been proactive, such as the pulp and paper sector which have been able to decrease their emissions by 22 per cent since 1990, have 29 per cent of its energy sourced from renewable resources, is using 48 per cent of recycled fibre, and has decreased its water consumption by 65 per cent since 1990.
- (6) Will special allowances be made for those sectors which have been proactive in the past; if so, what measures are anticipated.
- (7) In regard to the carbon price: (a) is the gross operating surplus taken into account in determining the price, or will it be based on one-size-fits-all; and (b) what level of return/profitability is deemed to be necessary for industry sectors to be able to continue to raise capital.
- (8) The aforementioned modelling notes that there are inherent uncertainties surrounding carbon capture and storage technologies, yet the modelling assumes the availability of that technology on a commercial scale from 2020:
 - (a) on what basis is this assumption made;
 - (b) if this assumption or the timeline is incorrect, then what impact will it have on the modelling data that has been provided;

- (c) what assumption was made in relation to the Carbon Dioxide (CO²) concentrations in the atmosphere over the next 2 decades;
- (d) does the department stand by its assumptions in its modelling of in tables 4 and 5;
- (e) has the recent global economic situation made any of the short-term or long-term predictions less reliable;
- (f) what analysis has the department undertaken of reports published in *The Age* of 8 October 2008 which suggests that many industries would be hard-hit with a \$20 per tonne carbon price;
- (g) does the Government or department agree with the analysis contained in the article;
- (h) (i) when did the department first predict the current economic circumstances in which Australia and the world is dealing at the present time, and (ii) when did the department's modelling first pick up this possible circumstance with which we are currently confronted;
- (i) when does the Government propose to have its regulations ready under the Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008 and related bills; and
- (j) what consultations have taken place to assist in the drafting of the regulations.

795 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) With reference to the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme: has a Regulatory Impact Statement been undertaken or provided.
- (2) With reference to Professor Ian Plimer's letter to the editor published on page 17 of *The Australian* of 21 October 2008:
 - (a) does the Government agree with Professor Plimer's analysis; if so, why; if not, why not;
 - (b) does the Government agree that Australia acting in isolation would be deeply problematic for the economy;
 - (c) does the Government consider that it is acting on greenhouse gases in isolation; if not: (i) what other countries are deemed to be acting in consort with Australia, (ii) what schemes are they operating under, and (iii) how do they compare with the proposed Australian scheme;
 - (d) if the Government is acting on greenhouse gases in isolation or relative isolation: which countries might be influenced by Australia's actions;
 - (e) does the Government have a list of countries that will be motivated to follow suit because of Australia's leadership with its proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme;
 - (f) has the Government given consideration to the number or major emitters; if so, which ones would need to participate in a global scheme before Australia moves ahead with its own Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme;
 - (g) will Australia's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme have any specific remedial or beneficial impact to save Australian icons such as the Great Barrier Reef; if so, how, and is there any evidence to support this view;

- (h) in regard to the list of 2 500 scientists who are asserted to endorse the reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): (i) has the Government been made aware of this list by the IPCC Secretariat; if so, can a copy of the list be provided, and (ii) is this list publicly available; if not: what has the Government done to satisfy itself as to the veracity of the claim;
 - (i) on what basis was a 20 per cent total proportion of permits available for trade exposed companies set, if it was based on environmental, economic or other considerations please specify which; and
 - (j) if Australia reduces its carbon emissions to zero, will it have zero impact on the climate.
- (3) With reference to answers to questions on notice nos 561-563 (Senate *Hansard*, 4 September 2008, p. 4633), and in particular, the paper used in the various reports:
- (a) does the department agree that elemental chlorine-free paper has less impact on the environment than totally chlorine-free paper;
 - (b) in regard to the answer in (11)(c)(i): on what basis did the printer assess that the two Australian-made options are of lower quality;
 - (c) was this based on environmental considerations or production/presentation considerations; and
 - (d) was the final report printed on Australian-made paper; if not, from where was the paper sourced.
- 796 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—With reference to the vacancy on the Prime Minister’s Science and Engineering Innovation Council as at February 2008: has that position been filled; if so, by whom and on what basis/consideration.
- 797 **Senator Johnston:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008:
- (1) Was there a reduction in uniformed staffing numbers as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts in the army, navy or air force; if so, where and at what level.
 - (2) Was there a reduction in civilian staffing numbers as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts in the army, navy or air force; if so, where and at what level.
- 798 **Senator Johnston:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—
- (1) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008: (a) which submarines in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) fleet were: (i) fully operational with full crew compliments, and (ii) non-operational; and (b) for each submarines that was non-operational, what was the reason for its non-operational status.
 - (2) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, how many fully qualified personnel were permanently employed in the RAN to operate submarines.
- 799 **Senator Johnston:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008: (a) which frigates were fully operational with full crewing commitments; (b) of those frigates that were not operational, what were the reasons for their non-operational status; (c) what were the operational strengths of the engineering officers and sailors in the frigates; and (d) what were the operational strengths of non-engineering officers and sailors on the frigates.

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 800-801)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister:

- (1) (a) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, what discussions or meetings were conducted regarding the Government's 'Razor Gang Mk II'; and (b) has the razor gang indicated any cuts or savings to be made by the department or agency.
- (2) (a) What special accounts does the agency currently hold; (b) as at 30 September 2008, how much is in these accounts; (c) does the agency use the interest from these accounts to fund ongoing operations; and (d) has the razor gang given any indication about the future of these accounts.

800 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

801 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 802-803)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister:

- (1) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, how many programs were under spent.
- (2) (a) As at 30 September 2008, what requests have been made to roll-over under spends to 2008-09; and (b) were these requests successful.

802 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

803 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 804-805)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister:

- (1) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, how much was spent on media monitoring.
- (2) As at 30 September 2008: (a) how many staff are employed in public relations and/or the media in the department or agency; (b) what are the position levels of these staff; (c) what are the salary grades of these staff; and (d) how many of these staff are: (i) permanent, (ii) temporary, and (iii) contractors.

804 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

805 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 806-807)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister, in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008: (a) what communications programs were undertaken or were planned to be undertaken; and (b) what has been the total spend in each communications program.

806 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

807 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 808-809)—

- (1) For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister, in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008: (a) what was the department's hospitality spend; and (b) for each departmental hospitality event, can the following details be provided: (i) date, (ii) location, (iii) purpose, and (iv) cost.

- (2) (a) For the office of the Minister, what was the total hospitality spend in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008; and (b) for each hospitality event in the office, can the following details be provided: (i) date, (ii) location, (iii) purpose, and (iv) cost.

808 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

809 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 810-811)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister, what appointments to boards or committees were made in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008.

810 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

811 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 812-813)—For the period 1 April to 30 September 2008:

- (1) (a) Did the Minister or associated Parliamentary Secretary travel overseas on official business; if so: (i) to what destination, (ii) for what duration, and (iii) for what purpose; and (b) what was the total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.
- (2) (a) Which ministerial staff accompanied the Minister or associated Parliamentary Secretary; and (b) for these staff, what was the cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.
- (3) (a) Which departmental officers accompanied the Minister or associated Parliamentary Secretary on each trip; and (b) for these officers, what was the total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.
- (4) (a) Apart from ministerial staff and departmental officers, who else accompanied the Minister or associated Parliamentary Secretary on each trip; and (b) for each of these people, what was the total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

812 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

813 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 814-815)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister, in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008:

- (1) Did the department or agency receive any advice on how to respond to freedom of information (FOI) requests.
- (2) How many FOI requests has the department or agency received.
- (3) How many FOI requests have been granted or denied.
- (4) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests.

814 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

815 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 816-817)—As at 30 September 2008: (a) how many departmental liaison officers are allocated to each Minister and associated Parliamentary Secretary; and (b) what advice do they provide.

816 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

817 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 818-819)—In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008:

- (1) What was the cost of the travel and expenses for the Minister for Community Cabinet meetings.
- (2) (a) How many ministerial staff and departmental officers travelled with the Minister for these Cabinet meetings; and (b) what was the total cost of this travel.

818 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

819 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 820-821)—For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary:

- (1) How many reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio/agency.
- (2) What was the commencement date of each review.
- (3) When will each review be concluded.
- (4) (a) Which reviews were completed in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008; and (b) when will the Government respond to the each of these reviews.
- (5) As at 30 September 2008, what has been the cost of each of these reviews.

820 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

821 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 822-823)—

- (1) For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary, in the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, what programs or projects were cut, curtailed, postponed, delayed or terminated as part of the Government's \$10 billion 'redirection of priorities' program.
- (2) For each program affected by the 'redirection of priorities' program, how much has been re-directed to 'higher priority programs/projects'.
- (3) What 'higher priority programs/projects' have benefited from cuts or savings made in 'lower priority programs'.
- (4) How much funding has been allocated to each of these 'higher priority projects'.

822 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

823 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008*)

Senator Johnston: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 824-825)—

- (1) For each agency within the responsibility of the Minister, as at 30 September 2008, how many staff are employed in the electorate office of the Minister and, of these staff:
 - (a) what levels are the staff employed at;
 - (b) what are the designated titles for each of these staff;

- (c) at what salary level are each of these staff paid;
 - (d) how many of these staff have completed the requirements for the granting of a security clearance;
 - (e) how many staff who have undertaken an application for a security clearance have had their request denied; and
 - (f) how many staff are employed: (i) under secondment arrangements, and (ii) as contractors.
- (2) For each Minister, as at 30 September 2008, how many staff are employed in the ministerial office of the Minister and, of these staff:
- (a) what levels are the staff employed at;
 - (b) what are the designated titles for each of these staff;
 - (c) at what salary level are each of these staff paid;
 - (d) how many of these staff have completed the requirements for the granting of a security clearance;
 - (e) how many staff who have undertaken an application for a security clearance have had their request denied;
 - (f) how many staff are employed: (i) under secondment arrangements, and (ii) as contractors;
 - (g) which staff members have a privately plated vehicle for their official and private use; and
 - (h) which staff members have been granted permission to fly business class as a condition of their employment.
- 824 Minister representing the Minister for Defence (*transferred to the Special Minister of State on 25 November 2008*)
- 825 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 20 November 2008; further transferred to the Special Minister of State on 25 November 2008*)
- 826 **Senator Johnston:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—
- (1) As at 30 September 2008: (a) how many uniformed staff are there in each of the three service areas (i.e. army, navy and air force); and (b) how many civilian staff are there in each of the service areas.
 - (2) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, how many uniformed personnel were recruited to each of the service areas.
 - (3) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008: (a) how many uniformed staff resigned from each of the service areas; and (b) how many civilian staff resigned from each of the service areas.
 - (4) In the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, how many temporary civilian positions existed, or were created, in each of the service areas.
 - (5) (a) Since 30 September 2008, how many civilian employees have been employed on contract; and (b) what is the average length of their employment period in each of the services areas.

Notice given 14 November 2008

- 827 **Senator Bushby:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—
- (1) Which state and territory governments have seconded officers to the department to work for: (a) Infrastructure Australia; or (b) another section of the department.

- (2) For each seconded officer: (a) what is their substantive level; (b) for what period of time have they been seconded; (c) what duties are allocated to them; and (d) is their salary and all other costs associated with the secondment, such as accommodation allowance, airfares, provision of motor vehicles, etc. being paid for by the state or territory government or by the Federal Government.

828 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) (a) How many times, since becoming Minister, has the Minister visited the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM); and (b) what were the dates and times of these visits.
- (2) (a) What specific steps were taken by the Minister and the department to determine whether or not ANAM and its board would be funded in 2009; (b) how many meetings were held, on what dates and by whom; and (c) what correspondence was sent and received and by whom.
- (3) Did the Minister meet with the board in person to discuss their response to criticisms of ANAM's administration; if so, when.
- (4) Did the Minister or the department raise the prospect of immediate closure in any of these meetings; if not, why not.
- (5) Why did the Government decide to defund ANAM; and (b) when was this decision made.
- (6) Did the Minister or any departmental staff meet with or enter into correspondence or discussions with representatives of any other institution regarding the future of ANAM.
- (7) Can the Minister confirm: (a) that on 25 August 2008 the Minister made specific requests to ANAM which he insisted had to be met as part of the consideration of ANAM's future; if so, what date was set for meeting these demands; and (b) that the board responded in detail to these demands within the time frame.
- (8) Did the Minister or the department receive any specific criticisms of ANAM from students, teachers or the public; if so: (a) how many; (b) on what dates; and (c) what were the specific criticisms.

(Amended 24 November 2008.)

Notice given 17 November 2008

829 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs—(a) What has been the total amount of government expenditure on Special Disability Trusts since they were introduced in 2006; and (b) can a breakdown of this expenditure be provided for each financial year.

830 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) Why was there no reference in the Minister's media statement on 16 October 2008, 'Tough measures placed on Tiwi plantations', to the name of the company that legally owns and operates the Tiwi plantation project and which is being penalised for serious environmental breaches on the Tiwi Islands.

- (2) Is the Minister aware that on the Great Southern Limited's website it states that Great Southern Managers Australia Limited, a corporate entity of Great Southern Limited, is the 'Responsible Entity and Plantation Manager' on the Tiwi Islands.
- (3) In the Minister's amended environmental conditions placed on the Tiwi plantation project, dated 13 October 2008, the 'Person to whom the approval is granted' is named as Sylvatech Limited: is this the legal entity responsible for carrying out the project and abiding by its conditions.
- (4) In the course of the past 2 years of investigations into these environmental breaches, did the Minister or any departmental officials ever meet with any persons who presented themselves as representatives or employees of Sylvatech Limited; if so, whom and on what dates.
- (5) If Great Southern Limited is the responsible legal entity, and Given that the Government has not named Great Southern Limited as the legally-responsible entity for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* approval conditions: will the Minister order an immediate change to the relevant documents; if not, why not.
- (6) In regard to the remediation plan which is now required from Great Southern Limited to address the ecological damage it has caused on the Tiwi Islands: who will be preparing that plan and will it be released for public comment prior to the Minister's approval.

Notice given 20 November 2008

831 **Senator Ludlam:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—In regard to the recently announced 'live pilot' of Internet content filtering:

- (1) Why does the pilot aim to test the impact of filtering on Internet connections ranging up to 12 Mega bits per second (Mbps) when 12Mbps is the minimum speed which the National Broadband Network project is claimed to deliver.
- (2) Why will the pilot test the capacity of the filters to 'detect and provide warnings on circumvention attempts'.
- (3) What is meant by 'provide warnings on circumvention attempts'.
- (4) Does the Government propose, or is it considering, the criminalisation of circumventing or attempting to circumvent the proposed filtering regime.
- (5) Will Internet Service Provider's be required, or permitted, to apply any level of filtering to the Internet connections of people who have not volunteered to participate in the pilot.
- (6) If the customers participating in the pilot are volunteers, how will the results of the pilot be of any worth when they will be affected by self-selection bias.
- (7) How does the Government propose to prevent technological tools such as proxies, Virtual Private Networks, the Tor service and encryption from being used to circumvent the Government's filtering regime without adversely affecting the ability of Australian businesses and residents to conduct their online business in a safe and secure fashion.

- (8) Are technological tools such as Virtual Private Networks, Peer-to-Peer applications and encryption, being used by persons trafficking in child pornography online; if so, how will the Government's proposed filtering regime prevent this.

832 **Senator Ludlam:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

- (1) On what basis does the Government claim that Internet service provider (ISP)-based filtering is more effective than personal computer-based solutions.
- (2) What is the Government's justification for making the dynamic content analysis filtering component of the regime opt-out rather than opt-in.
- (3) Why is it necessary to compel all Australian ISPs to supply a filtered Internet service when there are already some ISPs offering such a service in the market.
- (4) If the demand within the Australian public for filtered Internet connections from their ISP exists as claimed by the Government, why has this not manifested itself in the market to date.
- (5) What evidence does the Government have to support the claimed public demand for filtered Internet connections.
- (6) Can details be provided of organisations that have assisted the department through providing advice, information and examples that have contributed directly to the Government's proposed filtering plan.

833 **Senator Ludlam:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

- (1) What is the current number of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) on the Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMAs) list of overseas-hosted prohibited or potentially-prohibited content.
- (2) How many unique domain names are within the URLs which are currently on the ACMA blacklist.
- (3) (a) How many active URLs are currently on the ACMA blacklist; and (b) of these, how many have been, or in the ACMA's view would be:
 - (i) classified MA15+,
 - (ii) classified R18+,
 - (iii) classified X18+,
 - (iv) refused classification, and
 - (v) refused classification because they contain child pornography, and in this case, how many were referred to: (A) Commonwealth, state or territory police, and (B) an overseas agency.
- (4) (a) How many active URLs have been placed on the ACMA blacklist as potentially-prohibited content but which upon classification were found not to be prohibited content; and (b) what is the average period of time that such content has been incorrectly blacklisted.
- (5) (a) Is it currently unlawful for an Australian adult to access Internet content that is hosted overseas where that content according to ACMA is:
 - (i) classified MA15+,
 - (ii) classified R18+,
 - (iii) classified X18+, and

- (iv) refused classification, other than content defined as ‘child pornography material’ and ‘child abuse material’ in section 473.1 of Division 473 of Part 10.6 ‘Telecommunications Services’ of the *Criminal Code Act 1995*; and (b) if so, on what basis.
- (6) Which categories of legal material, that is, material which Australian adults can legally access on the Internet, will be subject to mandatory Internet service provider (ISP)-level filtering that is not optional for end-users.
- (7) In regard to the proposed expansion or augmentation of the ACMA blacklist by obtaining alleged child pornography blacklists from overseas agencies:
 - (a) does the criteria for inclusion on these overseas blacklists align with the Australian classification scheme;
 - (b) what mechanisms will exist to ensure the accuracy of these overseas blacklists;
 - (c) is the Minister aware of serious inaccuracies and over-blocking in the blacklist of alleged child pornography that is voluntarily used by some ISPs in Finland;
 - (d) is the Minister aware that a website which criticised and exposed serious inaccuracies in the Finish blacklist, in an act of apparent retaliation by the Government or police agencies, was itself placed on the blacklist; and
 - (e) how can the Australian public be assured that controversial yet legal content will not be blocked by its inclusion on overseas blacklists.
- (8) What safeguards will be put in place, or what assurances can the Minister give, that the scope of the mandatory blacklist will not, once the filtering regime is implemented, be expanded to include politically controversial material such as websites which allegedly promote anorexia.
- (9) How can Australians be confident that the Government’s proposed filtering regime will not wrongly block access to material dealing with political, activist, creative and governmental matters.
- (10) What is the mechanism by which the complaints-based ACMA blacklisting will be expanded to examine a broader range of Internet content.
- (11) What resources and expertise are to be provided to ACMA to enable it to properly identify illegal or prohibited material under an expanded scheme.
- (12) What assurances can the Minister give Australian businesses that access to their websites will not be wrongly blocked by the Government’s proposed filtering regime.

834 **Senator Ludlam:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

- (1) With reference to the statement on the department’s website ‘Online Content Regulation’ (last modified: 12 May 2008)

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/communications_for_consumers/internet/online_content_regulation which says that ‘For overseas-hosted content the prohibited categories are RC and X’: is this correct; if not, what are the prohibited categories for overseas-hosted content and on what date did the change to the categories commence operation.

- (2) How many items of Internet content were classified by the Classification Board for the year ended 30 June 2007 in response to an application for classification by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
- (3) Of the total number in (2) above: (a) how many were items hosted in Australia; and (b) how many of those items were classified in each of the following categories G, PG, M, MA15+, R18+, X18+ and RC.
- (4) Of the items in (3)(b) above that were classified G, PG, M, or MA15+: (a) how many have been the subject of an interim take-down notice; and (b) what was the average period of time from the date of issue by ACMA of the notice to the date of issue by ACMA of a notice revoking it.
- (5) Of the total number of items in (2) above: (a) how many were hosted outside Australia; and (b) how many of these were classified in each of the following categories, G, PG, M, MA15+, R18+, X18+ and RC.
- (6) If any of the items referred to in (5) above were classified G, PG, M, MA15+ or R18+: (a) how many of those items had been placed on the ACMA blacklist as potentially-prohibited content; and (b) what was the average period of time during which such content was incorrectly blacklisted.
- (7) What is the total amount paid by the ACMA to the Classification Board for the classification of the items referred to in (2) above.
- (8) Will access to services such as Google Translate, Google Cache and similar tools provided by various other search engine providers be blocked to prevent circumvention of the filter.
- (9) Given that the Australian Labor Party's policy document 'Labor's Plan for Cyber-Safety' discusses dangers such as online identity theft, cyber-bullying, publication of photographs without permission and online activities of cyber predators (such as using chat rooms): how will the proposed filtering regime address these issues.

835 **Senator Ludlam:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

- (1) Why are Aboriginal media and broadcasting organisations regulated under the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts rather than the Minister's portfolio.
- (2) Has the Minister had representation from Aboriginal media and broadcasting organisations requesting to be brought within the Minister's portfolio.
- (3) Will the Minister investigate the return of Indigenous media organisations to the Minister's portfolio as soon as is practicably possible.

836 **Senator Ludlam:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) Why are Aboriginal media and broadcasting organisations regulated under the Minister's portfolio rather than the portfolio of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.
- (2) Has the Minister had representation from Aboriginal media and broadcasting organisations requesting to be brought within the portfolio of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

- (3) Will the Minister investigate the return of Indigenous media organisations to the portfolio of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy as soon as is practicably possible.

Notice given 21 November 2008

837 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence— Does the Royal Australian Navy have any protocols in regard to intervention to protect vessels threatened by other vessels in Australia’s Antarctic waters; if so, in what circumstances will the Navy intervene and does this include where an anti-whaling protest ship is threatened by a foreign vessel.

838 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—

- (1) On what evidence does the Minister base their support for the decision by the Northern Territory Government to cut Indigenous bilingual education.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the report, *Indigenous languages and culture in Northern Territory Schools: Report 2004-2005*, compared the national testing reading results of Northern Territory bilingual and non-bilingual remote schools and found that the bilingual school students in both year 5 and year 7 outperformed the English only students.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the report in (2) above was referred to in the report, *Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle “Little Children are Sacred”* (dated 2007), and it was the basis of its recommendation that Indigenous language programs are best practise for remote schools and should be supported.
- (4) With reference to the article in the *Northern Territory News* of 17 November 2008, ‘Feds “force” NT to cut local languages’, in which the Northern Territory Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Ms Marion Scrymgour, claims that the Northern Territory Government was forced to cut teaching hours in Indigenous languages because of the national curriculum currently being developed: will the national curriculum impact on the ability of schools in the Northern Territory to teach Indigenous languages.
- (5) Given that the article in (4) above, Minister Scrymgour states ‘As part of that national curriculum there is no room for language and culture’: will the implementation of the national curriculum impact on the ability of schools anywhere in Australia to teach Indigenous language and culture.

Notice given 24 November 2008

839 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—In regard to the answer to question on notice no. 566 (Senate *Hansard*, 24 September 2008, p. 5 575), concerning the Ground-based Regional Augmentation System: (a) what is the figure that has been written off because of the discontinuation of the system; (b) was this figure reported in the department’s 2008-09 annual report; if so, how is it described in the financial statements; if not, why not; and (c) have any of Airservices Australia’s safety programs or activities suffered funding cuts because of this loss.

Senator Cormann: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 840-875)—(a) Can a list be provided of all appointed groups within the Minister's portfolio including: (i) authorities, (ii) committees, (iii) boards, (iv) working groups, and (v) any similar groups appointed by the Minister or the department; (b) how is each appointed group's membership determined; and (c) can a breakdown of membership of each appointed group, by state/territory, be provided.

- 840 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 841 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 842 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 843 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 844 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 845 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 846 Special Minister of State
- 847 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 848 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 849 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 850 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 851 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 852 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 853 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 854 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 855 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 856 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 857 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 858 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 859 Minister for Human Services
- 860 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 861 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 862 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 863 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 864 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 865 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 866 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 867 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 868 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 869 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 870 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 26 November 2008*)
- 871 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 872 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 873 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing

874 Minister representing the Minister for Youth

875 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 876-881)—In regard to the Minister's administered portfolio area, for the 2008 calendar year, can lists be provided for: (a) the top 5 program overspends and their costs; and (b) the top 5 program underspends and their costs.

876 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

877 Special Minister of State

878 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

879 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

880 Minister for Human Services

881 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 882-897)—For the 2008 calendar year, can lists be provided for: (a) the department's top 5 program overspends and their costs; and (b) the department's top 5 program underspends and their costs.

882 Minister representing the Minister for Education

883 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

884 Minister representing the Treasurer

885 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

886 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

887 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

888 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

889 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation

890 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

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

892 Minister representing the Attorney-General

893 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

894 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy

895 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism

896 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 26 November 2008*)

897 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 898-920)—What is the aggregate amount spent by the department on media monitoring during the 2008 calendar year.

898 Minister representing the Minister for Education

899 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

900 Minister representing the Treasurer

901 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

902 Special Minister of State

903 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

- 904 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 905 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 906 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 907 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 908 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 909 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 910 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 911 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 912 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 913 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 914 Minister for Human Services
- 915 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 916 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 917 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 918 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 919 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 920 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 921-943)—For the 2008 calendar year, can details be provided of the start date, duration, cost and nature (direct source or open source) of tender for each individual consultancy contract with the department dealing with: (a) media relations; (b) public relations; (c) public events management; (d) communications; and (e) communications strategy.

- 921 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 922 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 923 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 924 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 925 Special Minister of State
- 926 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 927 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 928 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 929 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 930 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 931 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 932 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 933 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 934 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 935 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 936 Minister representing the Attorney-General

- 937 Minister for Human Services
- 938 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 939 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 940 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 941 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 942 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 943 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 944-966)—

- (1) Can details be provided, as of 24 November 2008, of the total number of all staff in:
 - (a) the Minister's office whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy; and
 - (b) the department whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy.
- (2) Can details be provided of the aggregate salary and superannuation costs during the 2008 calendar year for all staff in:
 - (a) the Minister's office whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy; and
 - (b) the department whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy.
- (3) Can details be provided of the aggregate travel costs during the 2008 calendar year for all staff in:
 - (a) the Minister's office whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy; and
 - (b) the department whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy.
- (4) Can details be provided of the aggregate mobile phone costs during the 2008 calendar year for all staff in:
 - (a) the Minister's office whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy; and
 - (b) the department whose job description involves: (i) media relations, (ii) media advice, (iii) public relations, (iv) public affairs, (v) communications, and (vi) communications strategy.
- (5) Can a breakdown be provided of every review, inquiry and committee which is being conducted in the department that has been announced since 1 December 2007.
- (6) (a) How many of the department's reviews, inquiries and committees are in progress or incomplete as of 24 November 2008; and (b) what are their reporting dates.

- (7) In regard to each of the department's review, inquiry and committee (completed and incomplete as of 24 November 2008) that has or is being conducted during the 2008 calendar year: (a) what is the number of departmental staff allocated to each; (b) what is the aggregate number of departmental staff allocated to all; (c) were external consultants engaged to assist in any; if so, which consultants and how much has each consultancy cost (please itemise for each); and (d) what have been the travel costs associated with those staff involved in each (please itemise for each).
- (8) For the 2008 calendar year, what is the total cost of each departmental review, inquiry and committee, including staff wages, consultancy costs, travel and any other associated expenditure (please itemise for each).

- 944 Minister representing the Minister for Education
 945 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
 946 Minister representing the Treasurer
 947 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
 948 Special Minister of State
 949 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
 950 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
 951 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
 952 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
 953 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
 954 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
 955 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
 956 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
 957 Minister for Climate Change and Water
 958 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
 959 Minister representing the Attorney-General
 960 Minister for Human Services
 961 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 962 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
 963 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
 964 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
 965 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
 966 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Notice given 25 November 2008

- 967 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—
- (1) In regard to the Minister's visit to Japan during November 2008: (a) on what dates did the Minister travel; (b) what was the purpose of this visit; (c) can details of the Minister's itinerary be provided including when the itinerary was first drafted; (d) were any changes made to the itinerary while the Minister was in Japan; if so, what were they; and (e) were any meetings cancelled.

- (2) Did the Minister take a different flight home to that which was originally booked; if so: (a) what flight or flights were taken; (b) what flight or flights was the Minister originally booked on; (c) did this change incur any additional costs; if so, how much; and (d) why was the change made.
- (3) For the Minister, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (4) (a) How many ministerial staff and/or family accompanied the Minister; and (b) for this staff and/or family, what was the cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.
- (5) (a) How many departmental staff accompanied the Minister; and (b) for this staff, what was the cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware: (a) that developers in Newcastle are again campaigning to cut the city's passenger rail service to Newcastle station; (b) of reports in the Newcastle media indicating that federal government assistance is being sought to do this via urban revitalisation funding through the Government's major cities program; and (c) of any such approaches (formal or informal) to him or the department for such assistance.
- (2) Can the Minister assure the Senate and the people of Newcastle that federal government funding will not be provided to assist any project associated with cutting the Newcastle rail service.

969 **Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Special Minister of State—With reference to the 2008 Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Audit into the management of credit cards at four Commonwealth departments and agencies (report no. 37 of 2007-08, *Management of credit cards*):

- (1) For the 2008 calendar year, how many credit card transactions were subject to the ANAO audit
- (2) For the 2008 calendar year: (a) how many instances did ANAO discover where Commonwealth credit card purchases were split in order to acquire goods and/or services that were in excess of the cardholder's transaction limits; and (b) for each instance, can an itemised list be provided of: (i) the goods and services that were acquired, and (ii) the name of the agency where the purchases were made.
- (3) (a) For the 2008 calendar year, how many violations of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (the Act) using Commonwealth credit cards were discovered by ANAO; and (b) how many of these violations involved breaches of Section 60 of the Act.
- (4) For the 2008 calendar year, how many violations of the Act were committed by each of the four agencies audited.
- (5) Can an itemised list be provided of the items or services purchased through improper use of Commonwealth credit cards that were discovered in the audit.
- (6) For the 2008 calendar year: (a) how many violations of Order 2.5 of the Act were discovered by the audit; and (b) what percentage of incidents violated: (i) section 60, and (ii) Order 2.5, of the Act.
- (7) For the 2008 calendar year, can an itemised list be provided of goods and services acquired by all misuse of Commonwealth credit cards.

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 970-1003)—

- (1) How many Commonwealth credit cards have been issued to departmental and agency staff within the Minister's portfolio.
- (2) How many Commonwealth credit cards have been issued to departmental and agency staff that fall within the responsibility of the Minister's associated Parliamentary Secretary or Secretaries.
- (3) Within the Minister's portfolio, how many Commonwealth credit cards have been issued to: (a) staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*; (b) the Minister; and (c) the Minister's associated Parliamentary Secretary or Secretaries.
- (4) For each Commonwealth credit card issued in (3) above, what was the date of its issue.

(In substitution for question published in Notice Paper of 26 November 2008.)

- 970 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 971 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 972 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 973 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 974 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 975 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 976 Special Minister of State
- 977 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 978 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 979 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 980 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 981 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 982 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 983 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 984 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 985 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 986 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 987 Minister for Human Services
- 988 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 989 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 990 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 991 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 992 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 993 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 994 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 995 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 996 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 997 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 26 November 2008*)

- 998 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 27 November 2008*)
- 999 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 1000 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 1001 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 1002 Minister representing the Minister for Youth (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Education on 26 November 2008*)
- 1003 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Ronaldson: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1004-1037)—Has the Minister or any associated Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on parliamentary or ministerial business since 25 November 2007; if so, for each trip:

- (1) What was the purpose.
- (2) How many nights were spent overseas.
- (3) What were the dates and venues.
- (4) How many meetings did the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary attend.
- (5) How many departmental and/or personal ministerial staff accompanied the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
- (6) What was the aggregate cost.
- (7) Can an itemised account be provided of the costs for the following: (a) transportation; (b) travel allowance; (c) accommodation; (d) meals; and (e) other expenses, paid for by the Commonwealth in relation to the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and their staff.

- 1004 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 1005 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 1006 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 1007 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 1008 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 1009 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 1010 Special Minister of State
- 1011 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 1012 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 1013 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 1014 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 1015 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 1016 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 1017 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 1018 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 1019 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 1020 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 1021 Minister for Human Services
- 1022 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- 1023 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 1024 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 1025 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 1026 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 1027 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 1028 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 1029 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 1030 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 1031 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 1032 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel (*transferred to the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 27 November 2008*)
- 1033 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 1034 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 1035 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 1036 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 1037 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Notice given 26 November 2008

- 1038 **Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Special Minister of State—
- (1) How many staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are currently employed under the category of 'principal adviser'.
 - (2) (a) In which ministerial offices are these principal advisers employed; and (b) if there is more than one principal adviser in a specific ministerial office, please specify which office or offices.
 - (3) Can a detailed accounting of the salary that is paid to each principal adviser be provided.
 - (4) Can a detailed accounting of the superannuation benefits that are paid to each principal adviser be provided.
 - (5) Are these principal advisers authorised to use COMCAR services without the presence of an accompanying member of Parliament or senator.
 - (6) (a) How many of these principal advisers have been issued with a car by the Government; and (b) can a list be provided detailing the make, model and value of each car issued to each principal adviser.
 - (7) For each principal adviser, can a detailed accounting be provided of the costs incurred over the past 12 months in the use of their Government-issued car for: (a) petrol; (b) car insurance; and (c) car maintenance.
 - (8) Have these principal advisers been issued with a mobile phone by the Government; if so, can a detailed accounting be provided of the mobile phone costs incurred by these principal advisers over the past 12 months.
 - (9) (a) Are these principal advisers entitled to a performance salary bonus of any type; if so, what are the performance criteria of this performance bonus scheme that must be satisfied to receive it; and (b) if applicable: (i) what is the value of the bonus performance scheme for principal advisers, both in the aggregate and itemised per principal adviser, and (ii) how much has

been spent in performance bonuses for principal advisers as at 26 November 2008.

Notice given 27 November 2008

- 1039 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—Further to question on notice no. 287 that refers to the series of bushfires that began burning on or about 6 December 2006 on the east coast of Tasmania, seriously damaging a number of areas, especially the Four Mile Creek district and its answer (Senate *Hansard*, 13 May 2008, p. 1 668):
- (1) Can a breakdown be provided of the funds expended by the Affected Areas Recovery Committee.
 - (2) If a breakdown for (1) above cannot be provided, why not.
- 1040 **Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation (*transferred to the Special Minister of State on 3 December 2008*)—
- (1) Since 1 December 2007, how many government staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MoPS) have been provided with a motor vehicle as part of their remuneration package.
 - (2) In which ministerial or parliamentary secretarial offices do these staff work and if certain offices have more than one such MoPS staffer, please specify the number of staff and the offices where they work.
 - (3) Since 1 December 2007, what is the make, model and value of each motor vehicle provided to each government MoPS staff adviser as part of their remuneration package.
 - (4) Since 1 December 2007, did any government MoPS staff take up the option to upgrade the motor vehicle provided to them as part of their remuneration package to another make or model; if so: (a) what was the make, model and value of each upgraded vehicle; and (b) how much was paid in upgrade fees for each vehicle.
 - (5) For each motor vehicle, can a detailed accounting of the costs incurred over the past 12 months by government MoPS staff in the use of the motor vehicle provided to them as part of their remuneration package be provided for: (a) petrol; (b) car maintenance; and (c) car insurance premiums.
- 1041 **Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet publication, *Australian Government: One Year Progress Report*, dated November 2008:
- (1) How much funding has the Government allocated to compile, produce, publish and distribute this publication.
 - (2) Which Government departments and agencies were involved in the compilation, drafting, production, printing and distribution of this publication.
 - (3) How many departmental staff were involved in the compilation, drafting, production, printing and distribution of this publication.
 - (4) How many departmental staff hours were expended in the compilation, drafting, production printing and distribution of this publication.
 - (5) (a) How many hard copies of this publication have been produced; and (b) have these, or will these, publications be direct mailed or sent through unaddressed mail.

- (6) How much has been budgeted towards distribution costs for this publication.
- (7) Were any external consultants required to help produce this publication; if so, for each consultant: (a) who was the consultant; (b) what did the consultancy cost; and (c) can an itemised list of the expenditures of the contract be provided.
- (8) Was this publication, or elements of it, focus group tested; if so, how much did that research cost taxpayers.
- (9) How many soft copies, or a weblink to this publication, have been distributed electronically.
- (10) Have soft or electronic copies of this publication been distributed through the databases acquired from third party organisations or websites, including GetUp! and trade unions.

1042 **Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation (*transferred to the Special Minister of State on 3 December 2008*)—With reference to the private-plated Toyota Prius vehicle provided by entitlement to the Prime Minister:

- (1) As of 27 November 2008, what was the odometer reading for the vehicle.
- (2) As of 27 November 2008: (a) what was the most recent odometer reading in the department's records for the vehicle; and (b) what was the date of that odometer reading.
- (3) On 1 January 2008: (a) what was the most recent odometer reading in the department's records for the vehicle; and (b) what was the date of that odometer reading.
- (4) Is the vehicle home-based by department criteria in Canberra or Brisbane.
- (5) On 27 November 2008, was the vehicle physically located in Canberra or Brisbane.

Notice given 28 November 2008

1043 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Is Sunitinib malate (Sutent) listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).
- (2) If Sutent is listed on the PBS, are there any short- or long-term plans to remove it from the PBS; if so, can a time frame of the plans be provided.
- (3) Is there an assessment process to determine whether Sutent is to be removed from the PBS; if so, what are the steps involved and the time frame for this process.
- (4) How many kidney cancer sufferers currently take Sutent in Australia.

1044 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—What is the approved level of chlorinated dioxins and furans, in kilograms, that will be discharged into the Tamar River by the proposed Gunns Limited pulp mill on each day of operation.

Notice given 1 December 2008

- 1045 **Senator Cormann:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—(a) How much of the funding offered by the Prime Minister at the Council of Australian Governments was already incorporated in the contingency reserve inherited from the Howard Government in December 2007; and (b) how much of the funding was new money.

Notice given 2 December 2008

- 1046 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) When will the Minister make a decision on the controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to establish a solar salt mine along the eastern coast of the Exmouth Gulf.
- (2) Is the Minister aware of advice from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of Western Australia to the Western Australian Minister for the Environment, published in EPA Report 1295, *Yannarie Solar Salt, east coast of Exmouth Gulf*, dated July 2008, which unconditionally rejects the proposal on environmental grounds.

- 1047 **Senator Siewert:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) With reference to the Minister's media release, 'North-west marine profile to underpin planning process', dated 10 November 2008, and the statement that the 'Marine Bioregional Planning will help ensure that national economic assets such as the oil and gas and commercial fishing industries can prosper and that the impact of any conservation measures on them are minimised': can an explanation for the meaning of 'minimised' in the statement be provided.
- (2) Are state waters included in the marine protected areas; if not: (a) why not; and (b) can an explanation be provided of how the network of marine protected areas can 'truly represent the biodiversity of this region' without the inclusion of state waters.

- 1048 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

Corporate responsibility strategy

- (1) What are the aims of Australia Post's corporate responsibility strategy.
- (2) Who are the members of the Sustainability Working Group.
- (3) Why has Australia Post not invited a representative of the Post Office Agents Association Limited (POAAL) to be part of the working group.
- (4) Will Australia Post invite a representative of POAAL to be part of the working group.
- (5) Is Australia Post breaching any consultative agreements it has with stakeholder groups such as POAAL or the Communications Electrical Plumbing Union by not involving them in the working group.

Postie bikes for contractors

- (6) Is there a procedure for mail contractors to buy Honda postie bikes; if so, does Australia Post advise mail contractors of the procedure.

- (7) Are contractors able to buy postie bikes from Honda at the Australia Post rate; if not, why not.
- (8) Given that Australia Post now ‘retires’ its own postie bikes after they have travelled a certain number of kilometres and they are then sold through major automotive auction houses, but in the past Australia Post used to sell them direct to contractors (this practice ceased a few years ago):
 - (a) how does Australia Post determine when to dispose of a postie bike, is it based on hours of use, kilometres travelled, age, or some other factor;
 - (b) (i) how does Australia Post dispose of postie bikes, and (ii) are any offered for direct sale to mail contractors;
 - (c) does Australia Post: (i) sell postie bikes with the pannier bags intact or are they stripped from the bikes, (ii) make the pannier bags available to contractors to purchase, (iii) have a supplier for these pannier bags, and (iv) have the pannier bags custom made; and
 - (d) does Australia Post offer postie bikes for sale to contractors before putting them up for auction through an auction house.

Fuel prices

- (9) With reference to the 2008-09 Budget estimates hearing of the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee (Committee *Hansard*, 26 May 2008, p. ECA 18), in which Mr Newman stated that Australia Post has no plans to introduce automated fuel price reviews:
 - (a) given that Australia Post recently reduced the threshold for fuel price reviews from 7 per cent to 5 per cent: (i) how did Australia Post come to this decision, and (ii) does Australia Post have any plans to make this change permanent;
 - (b) has Australia Post considered varying the period from 3 months to a shorter period; and
 - (c) given that in the answer to question 5 (taken on notice) concerning how many contracts had been resigned because of rising fuel prices, Australia Post stated that it had no data on reasons why contracts are resigned, would it not be in Australia Post’s interest to find out why contractors are resigning their contracts; if so, does Australia Post have any plans to conduct ‘exit surveys’ for contractors who resign their contract.

Franchised PostShops

- (10) (a) How many dedicated Australia Post personnel look after franchised PostShops; and (b) where are these personnel located.
- (11) Does Australia Post offer incentives or special deals to people to take on a franchised PostShop.
- (12) Do all operating franchised PostShops have an owner/operator or are there still some Australia Post-appointed people operating them.
- (13) How many corporate post offices does Australia Post intend to convert to franchised PostShops in the 2008-09 financial year.
- (14) Does Australia Post have any plans to convert any Licensed Post Offices (LPOs) to franchised PostShops in 2009.

Licensee Advisory Committee

- (15) With reference to the answer to question 3, taken on notice during the 2008-09 Budget estimates hearing of the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee, Australia Post provided a copy of the Licensee Advisory Council's (LAC's) 'nil return' as lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission which showed that there was no income or expenditure for the LAC, and Australia Post's statement at a previous estimates hearing that Australia Post meets all of the LAC's costs:
- (a) (i) how are LAC costs allocated by Australia Post, and (ii) are the costs met by a specific group;
 - (b) if the funds are taken from the retail group, does this mean that funds that would have ordinarily been earmarked for payments to licensees are redirected to fund the LAC; and
 - (c) can a breakdown by state and national LACs be provided on how much Australia Post spent on LAC expenses during the 2007-08 financial year, detailing: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, (iii) Australia Post staff time, and (iv) other administrative costs.

Delivery standards for post office box mail

- (16) How does Australia Post determine the delivery standard for post office (PO) box mail at LPOs where the standard is after 9 am.
- (17) Can licensees request that their PO box mail be sequenced in order to reduce sorting time.
- (18) When Australia Post's delivery arm makes changes to the arrangements for the delivery of mail to LPOs, does it liaise with its retail arm so that licensees are compensated for any mail work performed before 8 am or after 9 am, where extra staff would need to be employed just to sort the mail.
- (19) Does Australia Post have a formula for allocating staff time to sort mail to meet the standards for private boxes, knowing how much time is needed to sort this mail.

Parcel collection

- (20) (a) How many centralised parcel collection facilities did Australia Post establish in: (i) 2007, and (ii) 2008; and (b) are they successful.

Customer contact lists

- (21) Given that licensees and smaller corporate post offices have suffered a downturn in their business as their best business customers are 'poached' by corporate account managers or larger corporate post offices:
- (a) does Australia Post do due diligence before taking this step of 'poaching' customers from its own outlets;
 - (b) is it a fact that some, if not all, account managers receive a bonus payment for transferring this business; and
 - (c) what does Australia Post do to make up the shortfall in the licensee's business payment when their best customers are 'poached' with offers which Australia Post does not permit licensees to offer.

Supply of retail products to licensees

- (22) Given that Australia Post makes available to licensees a range of non-postal retail products such as greeting cards, gift lines, stationery and small office supplies:

- (a) does Australia Post supply retail products to licensees at the same wholesale price which licensees could obtain by going direct to the wholesaler/distributor or does Australia Post take a cut for itself on the way through; and
- (b) when a licensee at a stand-alone outlet writes to Australia Post requesting authority to sell products other than those on the Australia Post list, does Australia Post take each request on a case by case basis or is a proforma refusal sent to all requests.

Australia Post headquarters

- (23) Did Australia Post consider purchasing its own building for its national headquarters.
- (24) (a) How much did the most recent fit-out of the Managing Director's office and the 19th floor cost; and (b) did Australia Post pay for the fit-out or was it paid for by the landlord.
- (25) Has Australia Post looked at the feasibility of having its headquarters in Canberra near the centre of Government, as do many other Government departments and agencies.

Travel

- (26) For the 2007-08 financial year, how much was spent on: (a) travel for the Managing Director; (b) accommodation and other travel-associated costs for the Managing Director; and (c) travel and accommodation for the board.
- (27) What level of Australia Post managers, travel via: (a) business class; and (b) economy class.
- (28) Does Australia Post make its own travel bookings or are travel bookings made through an agency.
- (29) If the bookings are made through an agency, what are the benefits.
- (30) Does Australia Post use the cheapest airline when booking air travel for its managers, board, etc; if not, why not.
- (31) How frequently does Australia Post use teleconferencing or video conferencing rather than travel.

1049 **Senator Cormann:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs—

- (1) How many sworn officers were employed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), as at: (a) 1 November 2007; and (b) 1 November 2008.
- (2) How many sworn officers were recruited by the AFP between 24 November 2007 and 24 November 2008.
- (3) How many sworn officers were made redundant by the AFP between 24 November 2007 and 24 November 2008.
- (4) How many sworn officers is the AFP budgeted to recruit by 31 December 2009.
- (5) Does the AFP anticipate any further redundancies as a result of the Rudd Government's efficiency dividend between 2 December 2008 and 31 December 2009; if so, how many.
- (6) For questions (1) to (5) above, can a breakdown be provided by state or territory of the number of sworn officers employed, recruited or made redundant during the indicated periods.

Notice given 3 December 2008

*1050 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—

- (1) How much money has been returned following underspends in programs in each portfolio for the 2007-08 financial year.
- (2) How much depreciation funding has been used for recurrent spending by departments or agencies from December 2007 to June 2008.
- (3) (a) How many policy proposals were costed by the Budget Group of the department for the 2008-09 Budget; and (b) what was the average length of time that was spent by officers in the Budget Group on costing each policy proposal for the 2008-09 Budget.
- (4) How much 'time off in lieu' was accrued by staff in the Budget Group of the department from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008.
- (5) How much non-taxation revenue was collected from outside the general government sector in the 2007-08 financial year and then subsequently spent by departments or agencies under section 31 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

*1051 **Senator Abetz:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—

- (1) Are departments and agencies required to seek the approval of the Minister to budget for an operating loss; if so: (a) which agencies did the Minister approve to budget for an operating loss for the 2007-08 financial year; and (b) for each agency, what was the reason for each operating loss.
- (2) Has the Minister given approval for any agencies to budget for an operating loss for the 2008-09 financial year; if so, what was the reason for each of these agencies needing to budget for an operating loss.
- (3) Did the Minister receive any requests for approval to budget for an operating loss that were not approved; if so, what were the reasons for these requests not being approved.
- (4) Which departments or agencies had an operating loss in the 2007-08 financial year had not received approval to budget for an operating loss from the Minister.
- (5) How many departments or agencies had an operating loss in the 2007-08 financial year and had requested approval to budget for an operating loss which was not approved by the Minister.

Senator Abetz: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *1052-*1087)—

- (1) Given that spending on individual programs is not reported in either the budget papers or annual reports, did any programs in the Minister's portfolio:
 - (a) have underspends for the 2007-08 financial year; if so, for each underspend: (i) in what program did it fall, (ii) how much was the underspend, and (iii) what was the reason for the underspend; and
 - (b) have overspends for the 2007-08 financial year; if so, for each overspend: (i) in what program did it fall, (ii) how much was the overspend, and (iii) what was the reason for the overspend.
- (2) Will any agencies and/or departments in the Minister's portfolio return money in the 2008-09 Budget as a result of underspends for the 2007-08 financial year; if so, how much.

- *1052 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- *1053 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- *1054 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- *1055 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- *1056 Minister representing the Treasurer
- *1057 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- *1058 Special Minister of State
- *1059 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- *1060 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- *1061 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- *1062 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- *1063 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- *1064 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- *1065 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- *1066 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- *1067 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- *1068 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- *1069 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- *1070 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- *1071 Minister for Human Services
- *1072 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- *1073 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- *1074 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- *1075 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- *1076 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- *1077 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- *1078 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- *1079 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- *1080 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- *1081 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- *1082 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- *1083 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- *1084 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- *1085 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- *1086 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- *1087 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Abetz: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *1088-*1123)—

- (1) (a) For the period 1 December 2007 to 30 June 2008, what funds has the Government committed to spend under regulation 10 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (the Act) for each department

and/or agency that operates under the Act in the Minister's portfolio; and (b) how much of this commitment was approved: (i) at the department or agency level, and (ii) by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation.

- (2) How much depreciation funding for each department or agency in the Minister's portfolio: (a) was available as at 30 June 2008; (b) was spent in the 2007-08 financial year; and (c) was spent in the 2007-08 financial year to directly replace assets for which it was appropriated.

- *1088 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- *1089 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- *1090 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- *1091 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- *1092 Minister representing the Treasurer
- *1093 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- *1094 Special Minister of State
- *1095 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- *1096 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- *1097 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- *1098 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- *1099 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- *1100 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- *1101 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- *1102 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- *1103 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- *1104 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- *1105 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- *1106 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- *1107 Minister for Human Services
- *1108 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- *1109 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- *1110 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- *1111 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- *1112 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- *1113 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- *1114 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- *1115 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- *1116 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- *1117 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- *1118 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- *1119 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- *1120 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law

- *1121 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- *1122 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- *1123 Minister representing the Minister for Sport
- *1124 **Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—As at 2 December 2008, can a list be provided of:
 - (a) each appointment or reappointment made by the department to overseas ambassadorial posts since 1 December 2007; and
 - (b) each of the department's overseas ambassadorial nominations where no formal appointment or reappointment has been made to overseas ambassadorial posts since 1 December 2007.
- Senator Ronaldson:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *1125-*1160)—As at 2 December 2008, can a list be provided of:
 - (a) each appointment or reappointment made by the department to any board, committee, formal advisory body, informal advisory body, domestic ambassadorial post, or any other Commonwealth body since 1 December 2007; and
 - (b) each nomination, where no formal appointment or reappointment has been made by the department to any board, committee, formal advisory body, informal advisory body, domestic ambassadorial post, or any other Commonwealth body since 1 December 2007.
- *1125 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- *1126 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- *1127 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- *1128 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- *1129 Minister representing the Treasurer
- *1130 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- *1131 Special Minister of State
- *1132 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- *1133 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- *1134 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- *1135 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- *1136 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- *1137 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- *1138 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- *1139 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- *1140 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- *1141 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- *1142 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- *1143 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- *1144 Minister for Human Services
- *1145 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- *1146 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy

- *1147 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
 - *1148 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
 - *1149 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
 - *1150 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
 - *1151 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
 - *1152 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
 - *1153 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
 - *1154 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
 - *1155 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
 - *1156 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
 - *1157 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
 - *1158 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
 - *1159 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
 - *1160 Minister representing the Minister for Sport
 - *1161 **Senator Cormann:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
 - (1) Can an outline be provided of the reasons for Australia's change in voting position during the 63rd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on the following resolutions:
 - (a) draft resolution on the 'Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories' (document A/C.4/63/L.16); and
 - (b) draft resolution on 'Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan' (document A/C.4/63/L.17).
 - (2) Did the Minister receive any communication from Israel or the Palestinian Authority on this change of position, either prior to the vote or subsequently; if so: (a) can an outline be provided of the nature of these communications; and (b) can copies of any correspondence on this matter be provided.
 - (3) Has the Minister or the department had any discussion, internal or external, on the impact of this changed position regarding the resolutions outlined in (1) above on the Government's desire to secure a seat on the UN Security Council.
 - (4) Has the Minister or the department had any formal or informal approach from other nations in regard to the resolutions mentioned in (1) above, either: (a) generally; or (b) specifically in relation to Australia securing a seat on the UN Security Council.
-
-

ORDERS OF THE SENATE

Contents

Amendment to an order of continuing effect	86
Amendments to standing orders	86
Committees	87
Estimates.....	90
Legislation	92
Meeting of Senate.....	92
Orders for production of documents.....	94
Question time	96

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).)

Amendments to standing orders

2 Legislative and general purpose committees—Amendment to standing order 25(9)

That subparagraph (d) of standing order 25(9) be amended to read as follows:

- (d) The deputy chair shall act as the chair of the committee when the member elected as chair is absent from a meeting of the committee or the position of chair is temporarily vacant.

(Agreed to 18 September 2008 upon adoption of recommendation at page 3 in the Procedure Committee's first report of 2008.)

3 Questions to chairs of committees and to other senators—Amendment to standing order 72—Temporary order

That standing order 72 be amended to read as follows and to operate as a temporary order for the remainder of 2008:

72 Questions without notice

- (1) At the time provided questions may be put to ministers relating to public affairs.
- (2) (a) The asking of each question shall not exceed one minute and the answering of each question shall not exceed 4 minutes.

- (b) The asking of each supplementary question shall not exceed one minute and the answering of each supplementary question shall not exceed one minute.
- (3) (a) After question time motions may be moved without notice to take note of answers given that day to questions.
- (b) A senator may speak for not more than 5 minutes on such a motion.
- (c) The time for debate on all motions relating to answers to questions without notice on any day shall not exceed 30 minutes.

(Agreed to 15 October 2008 upon adoption of recommendation at page 3 in the Procedure Committee's second report of 2008.)

Committees

4 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.)

5 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.)

6 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.)

7 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.)

8 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.)

***9 Substitute members of committees—Temporary order**

That the following operate as a temporary order from the first sitting day in 2009 until the conclusion of the 2009 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 3 December 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Meeting of the Senate’ below.)

Estimates

10 2008-09 Additional estimates—2009-10 Budget estimates—Hearings

- (1) That estimates hearings by standing committees for 2009 be scheduled as follows:

2008-09 additional estimates:

Monday, 9 February and Tuesday, 10 February 2009, and, if required, Friday, 13 February 2009 (*Group A*)

Wednesday, 11 February and Thursday, 12 February 2009, and, if required, Friday, 13 February 2009 (*Group B*).

2009-10 Budget estimates:

Monday, 25 May to Thursday, 28 May 2009, and, if required, Friday, 29 May 2009 (*Group A*)

Monday, 1 June to Thursday, 4 June 2009, and, if required, Friday, 5 June 2009 (*Group B*)

Monday, 19 October and Tuesday, 20 October 2009 (*supplementary hearings—Group A*)

Wednesday, 21 October and Thursday, 22 October 2009 (*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, 17 March 2009 in respect of the 2008-09 additional estimates; and
- (b) Tuesday, 23 June 2009 in respect of the 2009-10 Budget estimates.

(Agreed to 12 November 2008.)

**11 Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Estimates hearings—
Consideration of Indigenous matters**

That the Senate endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 1.10 of the Community Affairs Committee report on the 2008-09 Budget estimates that:

Future estimates hearing programs include a separate time to conduct an estimates hearing on Indigenous matters that would include all the portfolios with budget expenditure or responsibility for Indigenous issues.

(Agreed to 26 August 2008.)

12 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.

13 2008-09 Budget estimates—Answers to questions

The dates set by standing committees for answering questions taken on notice during the 2008-09 Budget estimates are as follows:

Group A:

Environment, Communications, and the Arts	Thursday, 31 July 2008
Finance and Public Administration	Friday, 11 July 2008
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Thursday, 10 July 2008
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport	Friday, 18 July 2008

Group B:

Community Affairs	Friday, 1 August 2008
Economics	Friday, 1 August 2008
Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Friday, 1 August 2008
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Thursday, 31 July 2008

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

14 2008-09 Supplementary Budget estimates—Answers to questions

The dates set by standing committees for answering questions taken on notice during the 2008-09 Supplementary Budget estimates are as follows:

Group A:

Environment, Communications, and the Arts	Thursday, 4 December 2008
Finance and Public Administration	Friday, 5 December 2008
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Friday, 28 November 2008
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport	Wednesday, 10 December 2008

Group B:

Community Affairs	Friday, 12 December 2008
Economics	Friday, 12 December 2008

Education, Employment and Workplace
Relations

Friday, 28 November 2008

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Thursday, 4 December 2008

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

Legislation

15 Senate consideration—Variation

That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Corporations Amendment (Short Selling) Bill 2008

Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax—Minor Amendments) Bill 2008.

(Agreed to 1 December 2008.)

*16 Senate consideration—Variation

That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Nation-building Funds Bill 2008

Nation-building Funds (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008

COAG Reform Fund Bill 2008.

(Agreed to 3 December 2008.)

Meeting of Senate

17 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.)

18 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.)

19 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.)

20 Meeting of Senate

That the days of meeting of the Senate for 2009 be as follows:

Autumn sittings:

Tuesday, 3 February to Thursday, 5 February
Monday, 23 February to Thursday, 26 February
Tuesday, 10 March to Thursday, 12 March
Monday, 16 March to Thursday, 19 March

Budget sittings:

Tuesday, 12 May to Thursday, 14 May

Winter sittings:

Monday, 15 June to Thursday, 18 June
Monday, 22 June to Thursday, 25 June

Spring sittings:

Tuesday, 11 August to Thursday, 13 August
Monday, 17 August to Thursday, 20 August
Monday, 7 September to Thursday, 10 September
Monday, 14 September to Thursday, 17 September

Spring sittings (2):

Monday, 26 October to Thursday, 29 October
Monday, 16 November to Thursday, 19 November
Monday, 23 November to Thursday, 26 November.

(Agreed to 12 November 2008.)

***21 Adjournment debate on Tuesday—Temporary order**

That the following operate as a temporary order from the first sitting day in 2009 until the conclusion of the 2009 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 3 December 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)

***22 Divisions on Thursday—Temporary order**

That the following operate as a temporary order from the first sitting day in 2009 until the conclusion of the 2009 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 3 December 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)

Orders for production of documents

23 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.)

24 Defence—Procurement projects—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Defence, no later than 4 pm on Thursday, 19 June 2008, the red folder brandished by the Minister which he claims contains details of ‘problematic’ defence procurement projects.

(Motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin) agreed to 15 May 2008; document tabled 19 June 2008.)

25 Sport—Sports and recreation facilities—Grants—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table, no later than 5 pm on 23 June 2008, a list of the commitments made by the Government during the election period to provide grants for sports and recreation facilities, which are being administered by the

Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, showing the recipients, locations and amounts of the grants.

(Motion of Senator Bernardi agreed to 17 June 2008; document tabled 23 June 2008.)

26 Administration—Departmental and agency appointments—Order for production of documents

That—

- (1) There be laid on the table, by each minister in the Senate, in respect of each department or agency administered by that minister, or by a minister in the House of Representatives represented by that minister, by not later than 7 days before the commencement of the budget estimates, supplementary budget estimates and additional estimates hearings:
 - (a) a list of all appointments made by the Government (through Executive Council, Cabinet and ministers) to statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises and all other Commonwealth bodies including the term of the appointment and remuneration for the position; and
 - (b) a list of existing vacancies to be filled by government appointment to statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises and all other Commonwealth bodies.
- (2) If the Senate is not sitting when a statement is ready for presentation, the statement is to be presented to the President under standing order 166.
- (3) This order is of continuing effect.

(Motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin) agreed to 24 June 2008.)

27 Administration—Departmental and agency grants—Order for production of documents

That—

- (1) There be laid on the table, by each minister in the Senate, in respect of each department or agency administered by that minister, or by a minister in the House of Representatives represented by that minister, by not later than 7 days before the commencement of the budget estimates, supplementary budget estimates and additional estimates hearings:

A list of all grants approved in each portfolio or agency, including the value of the grant, recipient of the grant and the program from which the grant was made.
- (2) If the Senate is not sitting when a statement is ready for presentation, the statement is to be presented to the President under standing order 166.
- (3) This order is of continuing effect.

(Motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin) agreed to 24 June 2008.)

28 Environment—Coorong and Lower Lakes—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than noon on Thursday, 28 August 2008, the ‘urgent advice’ prepared for the Minister for Climate Change and Water by her department as requested on 18 June 2008 on ‘what we can do in the short-term’ to address the dire situation confronting the Coorong and Lower Lakes in South Australia.

(Motion of Senators Bernardi, Birmingham, Ferguson and Fisher and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin) agreed to 27 August 2008.)

29 Environment—Strategic Review of Climate Change Policies—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on 4 September 2008, the report of the Strategic Review of Climate Change Policies recently completed by Mr Roger Wilkins, AO, with the support by a secretariat located in the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

(Motion of Senator Milne agreed to 3 September 2008.)

***30 Water Act 2007—Section 86A—Definitions and criteria—Order for production of document**

That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Climate Change and Water, by 10 March 2009, in relation to section 86A of the *Water Act 2007*, a document containing the following:

- (a) a comprehensive, practical definition of the term, ‘critical human water needs’ which identifies categories of users of such water and allowable purposes for the use of such water;
- (b) a definition of the core human consumption requirements which would satisfy paragraph 86A(2)(a);
- (c) a definition of the non-human consumption requirements which would satisfy paragraph 86A(2)(b); and
- (d) clear, transparent and equitable criteria the Murray-Darling Basin Authority will apply:
 - (i) in determining whether the definition in paragraph 86A(2)(a) is met,
 - (ii) in determining whether the definition in paragraph 86A(2)(b) is met,
 - (iii) in determining the volume of conveyance water required to deliver water to meet critical human water needs, and
 - (iv) to monitor the use of such water to ensure it is used for the allowable purposes referred to in paragraph (a) of this resolution.

(Motion of Senator Fisher agreed to 3 December 2008.)

Question time

31 Restructuring question time—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order for the two weeks of sitting beginning on 24 November 2008:

No notice to be given of questions, as at present.

Primary questions to be limited to one minute and the answers to them to two minutes.

Two supplementary questions to be allowed to the questioner.

Supplementary questions and the answers to them to be limited to one minute each.

Answers to be required to be directly relevant to each question, as in the original proposal.

(Agreed to 13 November 2008.)

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

- 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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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 Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
Senator Xenophon

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, Bishop, Carol Brown, Crossin, Ellison, Forshaw, Humphries, Hurley,
Hutchins, Marshall, Moore, Parry, Troeth and Trood

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
- Fuel and Energy
- Housing Affordability in Australia (final report—16 June 2008)
- Men's Health
- National Broadband Network
- Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities
- State Government Financial Management (final report—18 September 2008)

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; resolution of appointment varied 15 May and 13 November 2008)

Members

Senator Heffernan (*Chair*), Senator Farrell† (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Fisher, Milne, Nash and Sterle

†Senator Farrell to be discharged from 12 December 2008 with Senator O’Brien to be reappointed in his place

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Feeney, Ferguson, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Furner, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Minchin, Moore, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

Pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global fertiliser market (*referred 14 February 2008; final reporting date: 30 June 2009*)

Food production in Australia (*referred 25 June 2008; reporting date: 27 November 2009*)

Report presented

Pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global fertiliser market—
Interim report (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

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, Nash, Parry and Sherry

Reports presented

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

46th report—Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2008-09 (*tabled 14 May 2008*)

Annual report 2007-08 (*tabled 4 September 2008*)

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

Ms Parke (*Chair*), Senator Johnston (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Carol Brown, Cameron and Parry and Mr Chester, Mr Clare, Mr Hayes and Ms Ley

Current inquiry

Law enforcement integrity models (*adopted 15 May 2008*)

Report presented

Examination of the annual report of the Integrity Commissioner 2006-07 (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

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, Fielding, Parry and Polley and Mr Champion, Mr Gibbons, Mr Hayes and Ms Ley

Current inquiry

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

Reports presented

Examination of the Australian Crime Commission annual report 2006-07 (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

Inquiry into the *Australian Crime Commission Amendment Act 2007* (*tabled 4 September 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 O'Brien and Parry 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 Siewert (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Bilyk, Boyce, Carol Brown, Furner and Humphries

Substitute members

Government expenditure on Indigenous affairs and social services in the Northern Territory—Senator Crossin to replace Senator Carol Brown

Petrol sniffing and substance abuse in central Australia—Senator Crossin to replace Senator Carol Brown

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

Petrol sniffing and substance abuse in central Australia (*referred 17 June 2008; reporting date: last sitting day of March 2009*)

Government expenditure on Indigenous affairs and social services in the Northern Territory (*referred 15 September 2008; reporting date: 4 December 2008*)

Implementation of recommendations of committee reports on child migration and Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children (*referred 18 September 2008; reporting date: last sitting day of March 2009*)

Impact of gene patents on the provision of healthcare in Australia (*referred 11 November 2008; reporting date: last sitting day of 2009*)

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); tabled 13 May 2008*)

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 15 May 2008*)

Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008] (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

Mental health services in Australia—Interim report (*tabled 19 June 2008*)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

Ready-to-drink alcohol beverages (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

A matter relating to the PET review of 2000 (*tabled 26 June 2008*)

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008 (*presented to the Deputy President on 22 August 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)

Towards recovery: Mental health services in Australia (*tabled 25 September 2008*)

Draft National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits — Charges) Regulations 2008 (*presented to the Deputy President on 2 October 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 October 2008*)

Building trust: Supporting families through disability trusts (*tabled 16 October 2008*)

Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008 (*tabled 10 November 2008*)

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Further 2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 10 November 2008*)

National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008 [Provisions] and National Rental Affordability Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the President on 12 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 November 2008*)

Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Schooling Requirements) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 13 November 2008*)

Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 2) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Forshaw, on 20 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2008*)

Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising (Broadcasting Amendment) Bill 2008 (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

Mr Ripoll (*Chair*), Senator Mason (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Arbib, Boyce and Marshall and Ms Grierson, Ms Owens, Mr Pearce and Mr Robert

Current inquiry

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

Reports presented

Better shareholders – better company: Shareholder engagement and participation in Australia (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (*tabled 2 September 2008*)

Opportunity not opportunism: Improving conduct in Australian franchising (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

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 Bushby, Cameron, Furner, Joyce, Pratt and Xenophon

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Humphries, Hutchins, Johnston, Kroger, Ludlam, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams and Wortley

Current inquiries

Disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations (*referred 18 June 2008; reporting date: 4 December 2008*)

Bank mergers (*referred 24 November 2008; reporting date: 26 February 2009*)

Tax Agent Services Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*referred 26 November 2008; reporting date: 12 February 2009*)

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); tabled 13 May 2008*)

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); tabled 13 May 2008*)

Reserve Bank Amendment (Enhanced Independence) Bill 2008 [Provisions]—Interim report (*presented to the President on 30 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2008*)

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008] and Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 (*presented to the President on 30 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2008*)

Reserve Bank Amendment (Enhanced Independence) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented to the Deputy President on 11 June 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2008)

Australia's space science and industry sector—Interim report (tabled 23 June 2008)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (tabled 24 June 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2008 (tabled 24 June 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 4) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (tabled 26 August 2008)

Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008] (tabled 26 August 2008)

Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] (tabled 26 August 2008)

Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and Excise Tariff Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 (tabled 27 August 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008 (tabled 27 August 2008)

National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008—Interim report (tabled 27 August 2008)

Provisions of Schedules 1 and 2 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill 2008 (tabled 28 August 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008, A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008, A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008 and A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008 (tabled 28 August 2008)

Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of grocery prices) Bill 2008 (tabled 1 September 2008)

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008 (tabled 16 September 2008)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (tabled 17 September 2008)

Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions], Offshore Petroleum (Annual Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions], Offshore Petroleum (Registration Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions] and Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (tabled 23 September 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 5) Bill 2008 [Provisions]—Interim report (tabled 13 October 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (tabled 13 October 2008)

National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 (tabled 14 October 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (Political Contributions and Gifts) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented to the President on 20 October 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 10 November 2008)

Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 5) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (tabled 10 November 2008) and additional comments by Opposition senators (tabled 24 November 2008)

Lost in Space? Setting a new direction for Australia's space science and industry sector (tabled 12 November 2008)

Australia's mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme (*tabled 13 November 2008*)

Temporary Residents' Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] and Superannuation (Departing Australia Superannuation Payments Tax) Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Forshaw, on 18 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2008*) and minority report by Senator Xenophon (*tabled 24 November 2008*)

Corporations Amendment (Short Selling) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 27 November 2008*)

Joint marketing arrangements on the North West Shelf project (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

Nation-building Funds Bill 2008 [Provisions], Nation-building Funds (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 [Provisions] and COAG Reform Fund Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

- * The need, scope and content of a definition of unconscionable conduct for the purposes of Part IVA of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (*tabled 3 December 2008*)
- * Matters relating to the gas explosion at Varanus Island, Western Australia (*tabled 3 December 2008*)

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 Humphries (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Arbib, Cash, Collins, Crossin, Fisher and Siewert

Substitute members

Australia's research and training capacity in the area of climate change—Senator Milne to replace Senator Siewert

Oversight of the child care industry—Senator Hanson-Young to replace Senator Siewert

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Furner, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Lundy, Macdonald, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

Academic freedom in school and higher education (*referred 24 June 2008; reporting date: 4 December 2008*)

Australia's research and training capacity in the area of climate change (*referred 26 June 2008; reporting date: 20 March 2009*)

Fair Work Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*referred upon the introduction of the bill in the House of Representatives, 25 November 2008; bill introduced 25 November 2008; reporting date: 27 February 2009*)

Oversight of the child care industry (*referred 25 November 2008; reporting date: 12 March 2009*)

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*)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)

Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 24 November 2008*)

Schools Assistance Bill 2008 [Provisions] and Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 27 November 2008*)

Building and Construction Industry (Restoring Workplace Rights) Bill 2008 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Parry, on 28 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 1 December 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 inquiry

2007 Federal Election, including the Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008*)

Reports presented

Schedule 1 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008—Advisory report (*tabled 17 June 2008*)

Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Advisory report (*tabled 10 November 2008*)

Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca_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 Birmingham (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Boswell, Ludlam, Lundy, Pratt, Troeth and Wortley

Substitute member

Effectiveness of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and other programs in protecting threatened species and ecological communities—Senator Nash to replace Senator Boswell

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Furner, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Payne, Polley, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Trood and Xenophon

Current inquiries

Effectiveness of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and other programs in protecting threatened species and ecological communities (referred 18 June 2008; reporting date: last sitting day of February 2009)

Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008 (referred 25 September 2008; reporting date: 18 December 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); tabled 13 May 2008)

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008—Interim report (presented to the President on 7 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 May 2008)

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008 (presented to the President on 9 May 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 May 2008)

Effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice—Interim report (presented to the Deputy President on 6 June 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2008)

The effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice (tabled 19 June 2008)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (tabled 24 June 2008)

Sexualisation of children in the contemporary media (tabled 26 June 2008)

Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No. 2] and related matters—Interim report (presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Marshall, on 15 August 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008)

Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No. 2] (presented to the President on 25 August 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008)

Waste management in Australia (including consideration of the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008) (tabled 3 September 2008)

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 (tabled 15 September 2008) and additional comments by Senator Joyce (tabled 18 September 2008)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (tabled 17 September 2008)

Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2008 (tabled 13 October 2008)

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008 (*tabled 10 November 2008*)

Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television Switch-over) Bill 2008 (*tabled 25 November 2008*)

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 Cameron, Collins, Hanson-Young, Moore, Parry and Ryan

Substitute members

Residential and community aged care in Australia—Senator Siewert to replace Senator Hanson-Young

Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008—Senator Bob Brown to replace Senator Hanson-Young

Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Senator Ludlam to replace Senator Hanson-Young

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cash, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fisher, Forshaw, Furner, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Nash, O'Brien, Payne, Pratt, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

Residential and community aged care in Australia (referred to the Economics Committee 25 September 2008; transferred 14 October 2008; reporting date: 29 April 2009)

Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008 (referred 13 November 2008; reporting date: 15 June 2009)

Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Bill 2008 (referred 26 November 2008; reporting date: 10 March 2009)

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*)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

Knock, knock...who's there? The Lobbying Code of Conduct (*tabled 3 September 2008*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)
Item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007 (*tabled 13 November 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 Arbib, Bishop, Ferguson, Fifield, Johnston, Ludlam, Moore, O'Brien, Payne and Trood and Mr Baldwin, Mr Bevis, Mr Danby, Ms AL Ellis, Mr Gibbons, Ms Grierson, Mr Hale, Mr Macfarlane, Mrs Markus, Mrs Mirabella, Ms Parke, Ms Rea, Mr Ripoll, Mr Robert, Mr Ruddock, Ms Saffin, Mr Scott, Mr KJ Thomson and Ms Vamvakinou

Current inquiries

RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal workers and their families (*referred 21 May 2008*)
Australia's trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America (*referred 4 June 2008*)
Australia's relationship with ASEAN (*referred 25 June 2008*)
Human rights mechanisms and the Asia-Pacific (*referred 3 September 2008*)
Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power (*referred 2 March 2006; recommenced 27 August 2008*)

Reports presented

Review of the Defence annual report 2005-06 (*tabled 16 June 2008*)
Review of the Defence annual report 2006-07 (*tabled 2 December 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 Feeney, Ferguson, Forshaw, Kroger, Ludlam and McEwen

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bilyk, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Furner, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

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*)
Economic and security challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the island states of the southwest Pacific (*referred 24 June 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2009*)

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*)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)

Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Barnett, on 31 July 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008*)

Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Barnett, on 1 August 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008*) and addendum (*tabled 16 October 2008*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)

Reforms to Australia's military justice system—Fourth progress report (*tabled 24 September 2008*)

Fuel and Energy—Select Committee

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

(*appointed 25 June 2008; resolution of appointment varied 13 November 2008; reporting date: 21 October 2009*)

Members

Senator Cormann (*Chair*), Senator Hutchins (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bushby, Fifield, Joyce and McEwen

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Carol Brown, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Ferguson, Fielding, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Furner, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Johnston, Kroger, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

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; final report tabled 16 June 2008)

Members

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

Participating members

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

Report presented

A good house is hard to find: Housing affordability in Australia (*tabled 16 June 2008*)

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 Forshaw, Marshall, McGauran and Nash and Mr Downer, Mr Dreyfus, Mr Melham and Mr Robb

Current inquiries

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

Review of administration and expenditure no. 6 – Australian intelligence community (*statutory responsibility*)

Review of administration and expenditure no. 7 – Australian intelligence community (*statutory responsibility*)

Reports 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*)

Review of the re-listing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) (*tabled 25 June 2008*)

Annual report of committee activities 2007-08 (*tabled 14 October 2008*)

Review of the re-listing of Al-Qa'ida, Jemaah Islamiyah and Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (*tabled 14 October 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 Farrell, Feeney, Fisher, Hanson-Young, Marshall and Trood

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bilyk, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Furner, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Lundy, Macdonald, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

Effectiveness of the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality (*referred 26 June 2008*)
 Exposure draft of the Personal Property Securities Bill 2008 (*referred 13 November 2008; reporting date: 24 February 2009*)

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); tabled 13 May 2008*)
 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); tabled 13 May 2008*)
 Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008 (*tabled 16 June 2008*)
 Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)
 Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2008 (*tabled 24 June 2008*)
 Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 (*tabled 26 June 2008*)
 Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 28 August 2008*)
 Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated September 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)
 Evidence Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 25 September 2008*)
 Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Laws Bill 2008 [No. 2] (*tabled 14 October 2008*)
 Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008 (*tabled 14 October 2008*)
 Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—General Law Reform) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*tabled 14 October 2008*)
 Migration Legislation Amendment (Worker Protection) Bill 2008—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Forshaw, on 7 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 10 November 2008*)
 Migration Legislation Amendment (Worker Protection) Bill 2008 (*tabled 10 November 2008*)

Library—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chair*), and Senators Barnett, Bilyk, Cameron, Fielding, Hutchins and Trood

Men's Health—Select Committee

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

(appointed 13 November 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2009)

Members

Senator Bernardi (*Chair*), Senators Lundy, Parry†, Sterle, Troeth and Williams

†Senator Parry to be discharged at the end of the 2008 sittings with Senator Adams to be reappointed in his place

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Arbib, Barnett, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Ferguson, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Furner, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Macdonald, Mason, Marshall, McEwen, McGauran, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Trood and Wortley

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 Bilyk, Eggleston, Hanson-Young and McEwen and Ms D'Ath, Mr Georgiou, Dr Stone and Mr Zappia

Current inquiry

Immigration detention (*adopted 29 May 2008; replaces the inquiry into the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre adopted on 13 March 2008*)

Report presented

Immigration detention in Australia: A new beginning (Criteria for release from immigration detention)—First report of the inquiry into immigration detention in Australia (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

National Broadband Network—Select Committee

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

(appointed 25 June 2008; resolution of appointment varied 13 November 2008; final reporting date: 30 March 2009)

Members

Senator Fisher (*Chair*), Senator Birmingham (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Lundy, Macdonald, Nash and Sterle

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Ferguson, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Furner, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Minchin, Moore, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Stephens, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Report presented

Interim report (*tabled 2 December 2008*)

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 and Joyce and Mr Adams, Ms AL Ellis, Mr Neville and Mr Turnour

Report presented

The way forward: Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Fierravanti-Wells, on 16 July 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008*)

Parliamentary Library—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Senators Barnett, Bilyk, Cameron, Fielding, Hutchins and Trood 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 Collins (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Hurley, Lundy†, McGauran, McLucas and Payne

†Senator Lundy to be discharged from 12 December 2008 with Senator O'Brien to be reappointed in her place

Reports presented

133rd report—Possible false or misleading evidence before the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (*tabled 15 May 2008*)

134th report—Effective repetition (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

135th report—Persons referred to in the Senate (Certain persons on behalf of the Exclusive Brethren Christian Fellowship) (*tabled 24 September 2008*)

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 Ellison, Faulkner, Hurley, Ludwig, Parry and Siewert

Reports presented

First report of 2008—Restructuring question time; Reference of bills to committees; Questions to chairs of committees; Deputy chairs of committees; Leave to make statements (*tabled 17 September 2008*)

Second report of 2008—Questions to chairs of committees and other senators (*tabled 14 October 2008*)

Third report of 2008—Restructuring question time (*tabled 12 November 2008*)

Publications—Standing Committee

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

Members

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

Reports presented

1st report (*tabled 20 March 2008*)

2nd report (*tabled 15 May 2008*)

3rd report (*tabled 26 June 2008*)

4th report (*tabled 4 September 2008*)

5th report (*tabled 25 September 2008*)

6th report (*tabled 16 October 2008*)

7th report (*tabled 13 November 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, Boyce, Bushby, Feeney and Lundy and Mr Bevis, Mrs BK Bishop, Mr Bradbury, Mr Briggs, Mr Butler, Ms King, Mr Neumann and Mr Robert

Current inquiries

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

Effects of the ongoing efficiency dividend on smaller public sector agencies (*adopted 4 June 2008*)

Reports presented

Report 410—Tax administration (*tabled 26 June 2008*)

Report 411—Progress on equipment acquisition and financial reporting in Defence (*tabled 1 September 2008*)

Report 412—Audit reports reviewed during the 41st Parliament (*tabled 1 September 2008*)

Committee document presented

Statement on the draft budget estimates for the Australian National Audit Office for 2008-09 (tabled 14 May 2008)

Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee

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

Members

Mr Butler (*Chairman*), Senator Troeth (*Vice-Chairman*), and Senators Bishop and Forshaw and Mr Champion, Mr Forrest, Mr Lindsay, Mr Price 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)

Referrals tabled March 2008 (Fifth report of 2008) (tabled 25 June 2008)

Referrals tabled March – June 2008 (Sixth report of 2008) (tabled 2 September 2008)

Update report: The Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre Project (Seventh report of 2008) (tabled 23 September 2008)

Australian Super Hornet Facilities Project, RAAF Base Amberley (Eighth report of 2008) (presented to the President on 22 October 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 10 November 2008)

Referrals tabled June – September 2008 (Ninth report of 2008) (tabled 2 December 2008)

Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities—Select Committee

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

(appointed 19 March 2008; resolution of appointment varied 13 November 2008; reporting dates: 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, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Furner, Hanson-Young, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Report presented

First report 2008 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Troeth, on 30 September 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 October 2008*)

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 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*)

Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation, March 2007 to June 2008 (*tabled 18 September 2008*)

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 Milne (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Heffernan, Hurley, Hutchins, McGauran, O'Brien and Williams

Substitute members

Senator Farrell to replace Senator O'Brien from 15 September to 12 December 2008

Management of the Murray-Darling Basin system—Senator Siewert to replace Senator Milne

Natural resource management and conservation challenges—Senator Siewert to replace Senator Milne

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bilyk, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Furner, Hanson-Young, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Ludlam, Lundy, Macdonald, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Polley, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Troeth, Trood, Wortley and Xenophon

Current inquiries

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

Meat marketing (*referred 19 March 2008; interim report tabled 4 September 2008; final reporting date: 30 June 2009*)

Natural resource management and conservation challenges (*referred 26 June 2008; reporting date: 12 March 2009*)

Management of the Murray-Darling Basin system (*referred 27 August 2008; report on matters specified in part (1) presented 10 October 2008; reporting date for matters specified in part (2): 19 March 2009*)

Establishment of an Australian Football League team for Tasmania (*referred 28 August 2008; reporting date: 30 June 2009*)

Import risk analysis for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines (*referred 27 November 2008; reporting date: 19 March 2009*)

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); tabled 13 May 2008*)

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); tabled 13 May 2008*)

Budget estimates 2008-09, dated June 2008 (*tabled 25 June 2008*)

Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and related matters—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Fierravanti-Wells, on 9 July 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008*)

Implementation, operation and administration of the legislation underpinning Carbon Sink Forests—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 22 August 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 26 August 2008*)

Climate change and the Australian agricultural sector—Interim report (*tabled 4 September 2008*)

Meat marketing—Interim report (*tabled 4 September 2008*)

Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and related matters (*tabled 18 September 2008*)

Implementation, operation and administration of the legislation underpinning Carbon Sink Forests (*tabled 23 September 2008*)

Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008, Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2008 and Horse Disease Response Levy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Humphries, on 3 October 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 October 2008*)

Inquiry into water management in the Coorong and Lower Lakes (including consideration of the Emergency Water (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008)—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Humphries, on 3 October 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 October 2008*)

Water management in the Coorong and Lower Lakes (including consideration of the Emergency Water (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008) (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Bishop, on 10 October 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 October 2008*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2008), dated November 2008 (*tabled 13 November 2008*)

Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008, Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2008 and Horse Disease Response Levy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 (*tabled 13 November 2008*)

Water Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions]—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Moore, on 19 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2008*)

Water Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Barnett, on 21 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2008*) and corrigenda (*tabled 27 November 2008*)

Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008 [Provisions] and Road Charges Legislation Repeal and Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Barnett, on 21 November 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2008*)

Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Committee

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

Members

Senator Coonan (*Chairman*), Senator Bishop (*Deputy Chairman*), and Senators Cameron, Collins, Siewert and Troeth

Alert Digests presented

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

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

No. 3 of 2008 (*tabled 14 May 2008*)

No. 4 of 2008 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Forshaw, on 5 June 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2008*)

No. 5 of 2008 (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

No. 6 of 2008 (*tabled 25 June 2008*)

No. 7 of 2008 (*tabled 27 August 2008*)

No. 8 of 2008 (*tabled 3 September 2008*)

No. 9 of 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)

No. 10 of 2008 (*tabled 24 September 2008*)

No. 11 of 2008 (*tabled 15 October 2008*)

No. 12 of 2008 (*tabled 12 November 2008*)

No. 13 of 2008 (*tabled 26 November 2008*)

* No. 14 of 2008 (*tabled 3 December 2008*)

Reports presented

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

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

Third report of 2008 (*tabled 14 May 2008*)

Fourth report of 2008 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Forshaw, on 5 June 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2008*)

Fifth report of 2008 (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

The work of the committee during the 40th Parliament: February 2002 – August 2004 (*tabled 18 June 2008*)

Sixth report of 2008 (*tabled 25 June 2008*)

Seventh report of 2008 (*tabled 27 August 2008*)

Eighth report of 2008 (*tabled 3 September 2008*)

Ninth report of 2008 (*tabled 17 September 2008*)

Tenth report of 2008 (*tabled 24 September 2008*)

The work of the committee during the 41st Parliament: November 2004 – October 2007 (*tabled 24 September 2008*)

Eleventh report of 2008 (*tabled 15 October 2008*)

Twelfth report of 2008 (*tabled 12 November 2008*)

Selection of Bills—Standing Committee

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

Members

The Acting Government Whip (*Chair*), the Opposition Whip, the Nationals Whip, the Australian Greens Whip, the Family First Party Whip, and Senators Adams, Coonan, Ludwig and McEwen

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*)

Report no. 4 of 2008 (*presented 14 May 2008*)

Report no. 5 of 2008 (*presented 18 June 2008*)

Report no. 6 of 2008 (*presented 25 June 2008*)

Report no. 7 of 2008 (*presented 26 June 2008*)

Report no. 8 of 2008 (*presented 27 August 2008*)

Report no. 9 of 2008 (*presented 3 September 2008*)

Report no. 10 of 2008 (*presented 4 September 2008*)

Report no. 11 of 2008 (*presented 18 September 2008*)

Report no. 12 of 2008 (*presented 25 September 2008*)

Report no. 13 of 2008 (*presented 15 October 2008*)

Report no. 14 of 2008 (*presented 16 October 2008*)

Report no. 15 of 2008 (*presented 13 November 2008*)

Report no. 16 of 2008 (*presented 26 November 2008*)

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee

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

Members

Senator Johnston (*Chair*), Senator Forshaw (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Bilyk, Bob Brown, Fifield, Humphries and Pratt

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*)

Register of senators' interests incorporating statements of registrable interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 8 December 2007 and 23 June 2008 (*tabled 25 June 2008*)

Register of senators' interests incorporating statements of registrable interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 24 June and 22 September 2008 (*tabled 25 September 2008*)

Register of senators' interests incorporating statements of registrable interests of senators lodged by 23 September 2008—Volumes 1 (A–F) and 2 (G–Z) (*tabled 25 September 2008*)

- * Register of senators' interests incorporating notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 24 September and 1 December 2008 (*tabled 3 December 2008*)

Declarations of gifts lodged

Register of gifts to the Senate and to the Parliament, incorporating declarations of gifts lodged between 19 June 2007 and 23 September 2008 (*tabled 25 September 2008*)

- * Register of gifts to the Senate and to the Parliament, incorporating declarations of gifts lodged between 24 September and 1 December 2008 (*tabled 3 December 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, 20 March, 27 August and 17 September 2008; final report tabled 18 September 2008*)

Members

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

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Arbib, Barnett, Bernardi, Bilyk, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Cameron, Cash, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Farrell, Feeney, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Furner, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Lundy, Marshall, Mason, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Pratt, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Williams, Wortley and Xenophon

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee

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

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Mr KJ Thomson (*Chair*), Senator McGauran (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Birmingham, Cash, Farrell, Ludlam, Pratt and Wortley and Mr Briggs, Mr Forrest, Ms Hall, Ms Neal, Ms Parke, Mr Simpkins, Mr Trevor and Ms Vamvakinou

Current inquiries

All treaties tabled in the Senate

Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament (*referred 13 October 2008*)

Reports presented

Report 90—Treaties tabled on 12 March 2008 (*tabled 15 May 2008*)

Report 92—Treaty tabled on 4 June 2008 (*tabled 19 June 2008*)

Report 91—Treaties tabled on 12 March 2008 (*tabled 26 June 2008*)

Report 93—Treaties tabled on 12 March and 14 May 2008 (*tabled 4 September 2008*)

Report 94—Treaties tabled on 14 May 2008 (*tabled 18 September 2008*)

Report 95—Treaties tabled on 4 June, 17 June, 25 June and 26 August 2008 (*tabled 16 October 2008*)

Report 96—Treaties tabled on 16 September 2008 (*tabled 24 November 2008*)

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 Ferguson (*appointed 12 March 2008 and 1 July 2008, 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 Youth 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 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 Trade 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 the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Attorney-General Minister for Home Affairs Minister for the Status of Women
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 Employment and Workplace Relations Minister for Social Inclusion Minister for Health and Ageing Minister for Employment Participation 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.

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 Search 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.