

# **SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT NO. 7 OF 2020**

*27 August 2020*

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Dean Smith (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Perin Davey (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Stirling Griff (Centre Alliance Whip)

Senator Pauline Hanson (Pauline Hanson's One Nation Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Anne Urquhart (Opposition Whip)

Senator Raff Ciccone

Senator Katy Gallagher

Senator Jacqui Lambie

Senator the Hon James McGrath

Senator Rex Patrick

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston

Secretary: Tim Bryant  
 6277 3020

## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### REPORT NO. 7 OF 2020

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 26 August 2020 at 7.50pm.
2. The committee recommends that the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
  - Competition and Consumer Amendment (Australian Consumer Law—Country of Origin Representations) Bill 2020
  - Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Jobkeeper Payments) Amendment Bill 2020
  - Defence Amendment (Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding) Bill 2018
  - Education Legislation Amendment (Up-front Payments Tuition Protection) Bill 2020
  - Higher Education (Up-front Payments Tuition Protection Levy) Bill 2020
  - Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Omnibus) Bill 2020.
3. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
  - Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Improved Home Care Payment Administration No. 1) Bill 2020
  - Air Services Amendment Bill 2018
  - Australian Education Legislation Amendment (Prohibiting the Indoctrination of Children) Bill 2020
  - Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft Levy) Bill 2020
  - Civil Aviation Amendment (Unmanned Aircraft Levy Collection and Payment) Bill 2020
  - Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020
  - Constitution Alteration (Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press) 2019
  - Customs Amendment (Safer Cladding) Bill 2019
  - Discrimination Free Schools Bill 2018
  - Family Law Amendment (Risk Screening Protections) Bill 2020
  - Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2019
  - Great Australian Bight Environment Protection Bill 2019
  - Interactive Gambling Amendment (Prohibition on Credit Card Use) Bill 2020
  - National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Strengthening Banning Orders) Bill 2020
  - Regional Forest Agreements Legislation (Repeal) Bill 2017
  - Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Bill 2020
  - Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2020
  - Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2020
  - Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020

Recycling and Waste Reduction (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020

Recycling and Waste Reduction Charges (General) Bill 2020

Recycling and Waste Reduction Charges (Customs) Bill 2020

Recycling and Waste Reduction Charges (Excise) Bill 2020

- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Better Targeting Student Payments) Bill 2019
- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Payment Integrity) Bill 2019
- Sport Integrity Australia Amendment (World Anti-Doping Code Review) Bill 2020.

4. The committee considered the following bills but was unable to reach agreement:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Streamlining Environmental Approvals) Bill 2020 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral)
- Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020 (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral)
- National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention Bill 2020 (see appendix 3 for a statement of reasons for referral)  
National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020 (see appendix 4 for a statement of reasons for referral).

(Dean Smith)

**Chair**

27 August 2020

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

Name of bill: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation amendment  
(Streamlining Environmental Approvals)

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: This bill would make changes to important environmental approvals processes. It would amend the EPBC Act which is currently the subject of an independent review and the Senate should understand the full recommendations of the independent review before considering this legislation.

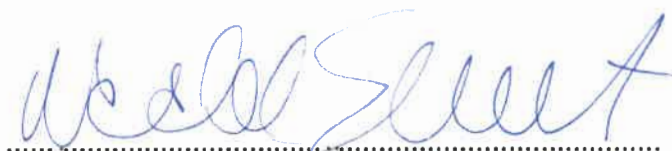
Possible submissions or evidence from:

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

Possible reporting date: 30<sup>th</sup> November

(signed)



Print name:

Rachel Siemer

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bill:**

Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

- To provide tertiary education providers, students, relevant unions, and other interested parties in the sector an opportunity to give feedback on the bill and comment on its likely impact on education providers and students.
- To consider the likely effectiveness of the bill in achieving its stated outcomes and its impact on tertiary education providers and students.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

- Individual Australian universities
- Individual TAFEs and Government-owned providers, registered training organisations and non-university higher education providers
- National Union of Students
- National Tertiary Education Union
- CAPA
- Universities Australia
- Group of 8
- Regional Universities Network
- Innovative Research Universities
- TAFE Directors Australia
- Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia
- TEQSA
- DESE


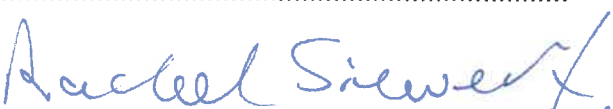
**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**

Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):** no preference – depends on committee schedule

**Possible reporting date:** Late December 2020

(signed)

  
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## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

**Name of bill:**

Higher Education Support Amendment (Job Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

The Bill seeks to fundamentally reform university funding; student fees; student protection and institutional audit measures.

The legislation fails to address aspects of the Government's proposed reforms that have a significant bearing on university purpose and operations.

There has been significant public and expert criticism of the Bill on a range of matters – including the underlying assumptions, the evidence base, unintended consequences and perverse incentives.

Key stakeholders have expressed the need for a comprehensive inquiry given the extent and complexity of the reforms proposed and the lack of consultation to date.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Group of Eight

Universities Australia

Australian Technology Network

Innovation Research Universities

Regional Universities Network

individual Universities

National Union of Students

Professional Associations

Deans of Science; Deans of Education; Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

NTEU, PSA

Policy experts and academics

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**

Education and Employment

**Possible hearing date(s):**

September - November

**Possible reporting date:**

30 November 2020

(signed)

  
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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

**Name of bill:** *National Commissioner for Veteran Suicide Prevention Bill*

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:** to allow for consideration of design of proposed National Commissioner, informed by the findings of the impending interim Commissioner, forthcoming government response to the Productivity Commission's *A Better Way* report, impacted stakeholder submissions and consultation.

Because the interim Commissioner (as announced February 5 2020) has yet to be appointed, the interim Commissioner's literature review, also announced in February, is also yet to commence. This review, consisting of a comprehensive review of known current and former ADF and Defence personnel suicides since 2001, as well as a progress update on the implementation of recommendations made in various reviews and reports since 2003, should be concluded to inform the design of the National Commissioner's proposed functioning.

The expectation offered by the Government in February 2020 was that the interim Commissioner would produce an initial report back twelve months from commencement, with a final report due 18 months from commencement (or six months after the initial reporting date). As this has been delayed, it is reasonable to suggest that the work of the interim Commissioner should inform the consideration of the Senate committee, and such that the work of the interim Commissioner should be allowed to proceed without delay, and without undue haste. The 12-month timeline to produce an initial report should be honoured.

#### **Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Families, spouses of suicided Defence personnel.

Departments.

Academics.



Legal experts.

Productivity Commission.

Ex-service organisations.

Veteran advocates.

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**


FADT Legislative Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

**Possible reporting date:**

August 2021

(signed)



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**Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member**

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bill:**

National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention Bill 2020

National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

Veterans' and their families have made it clear that they want a Royal Commission and that the Government's proposal, which is enabled by this legislation, is not satisfactory. This issue and the functioning of this National Commissioner needs further scrutiny.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Julie-Ann Finney from #SaveOurHeroes

Productivity Commission

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**

FADT Legislation Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

Sept-Nov 2020, Feb-Jul 2021

**Possible reporting date:**

August 2021

**(signed)**



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**Print name:**