



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 13 February 2014

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 7.08 pm

The Senate will meet again on 3 March 2014. Senate committees will meet from 24 to 27 February 2014 to consider [additional estimates](#)

Senators

Senator Barry O'Sullivan was sworn in as a senator to fill a vacancy in the representation of Queensland

Legislation

[Bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bill was introduced

- Great Barrier Reef Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [[homepage](#) - private senator's bill]

The following bills were debated

- Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013—second reading debate continued—second reading amendment pending [[first speaker](#)]
- Defence Legislation Amendment (Woomera Prohibited Area) Bill 2013—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were debated and passed

- Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2013 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]
- Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill 2013 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]
- Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Consumer Protection) Bill 2013 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]
- Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2013 Measures No. 1) Bill 2013 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]
- Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2013 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]

Committees

[Scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[Committee reports](#)

Estimates

- [Additional information](#) received relating to estimates hearings was tabled
- The Senate agreed to a [motion](#) to amend an order of the Senate relating to hearings scheduled for the 2013-14 additional estimates and the 2014-15 Budget estimates [a [statement](#) was made]

Report tabled

Selection of Bills Committee—Report no. 1 of 2014 [[report](#)]

Documents tabled

- Particulars of proposed additional expenditure for 2013-14 [The Senate [referred](#) the particulars to committees, for consideration at estimates hearings next week and portfolio additional estimates statements]
- Work of Committees—1 January to 31 December 2013; and half-year statistics: 1 July to 31 December 2013

Government responses tabled

- Cyber Safety Joint Select Committee—Cyber safety for seniors: A worthwhile journey—Second interim report
- Treaties Joint Committee—136th report: Treaty tabled on 14 May 2013

[New inquiry](#)

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area boundaries—Environment and Communications References Committee—to report by 15 May 2014

Proposed references

The Senate did not agree to refer the following matters to committees:

- [Alleged breaches of Commonwealth law](#)—Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee
- [Amendment of standing order 50](#)—Procedure Committee [[statements](#) were made]

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Economics References Committee—13 February 2014 from 3.30 pm—private meeting
- Treaties Joint Committee—3, 17 and 24 March 2014—from 11 am—public meetings

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–

- future of beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia–to report by 19 June 2014
- grass-fed cattle levies–to report by 30 June 2014
- public transport–to report by 30 June 2014

Membership

The Senate agreed to various changes to the membership of committees [Journals entries [51](#) and [59](#) refer]

Documents

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

- [Clerk's documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

Disallowance motions–[intention to withdraw](#)

A notice of motion to disallow migration regulations was withdrawn

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to the following orders:

- [Australian Broadcasting Corporation funding](#)–by the Minister representing the Minister for Communications–by 3 March 2014 [[statements](#) were made]
- [Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement modelling](#)–by the Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Investment–on 3 March 2014 [[statements](#) were made]
- [Operation Sovereign Borders](#)–Report on review–by the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection (Senator Cash)–no later than noon on 21 February 2014 [a statement was made]

Document tabled

The Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection (Senator Cash) tabled a [document](#) concerning border protection operations [a [motion](#) to take note of the document was agreed to] [The document was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on 12 February 2014]

Notice of motion

A [notice of motion](#) was given to require the Attorney-General to table evidence relating to claims about Mr Edward Snowden–no later than 2 pm on 6 March 2014–notice given by Senator Ludlam

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies

[Letters of advice](#) for various portfolios were tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

[Letters of advice](#) for various portfolios were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are required to be tabled twice a year]

Departmental and agency grants

[Letters of advice](#) for various portfolios were tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) tabled a [ministerial statement](#) about the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

Documents tabled and discussed

- Australian Law Reform Commission–Report no. 122–Copyright and the digital economy (final and summary reports) [a [motion](#) was moved to take note of the report]
- Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General’s reports were discussed
- [Response](#) to a Senate resolution about the protection of nationally important species and wilderness places—from the Deputy Premier of Queensland (Mr Seeney) [resolution agreed to on 11 December 2013]

Other business

[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—first question](#)
[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motions agreed to

- Environment–Tasmania–[Bell Bay pulp mill project](#)—moved by Senator Whish-Wilson
- Foreign Affairs–[Cambodia](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne) [a [statement](#) was made]
- Foreign Affairs–[Egypt—Mr Peter Greste](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne) [a [statement](#) was made]
- Foreign affairs–[Sri Lanka—Human rights](#)—moved by Senators Stephens, Moore, Rhiannon and the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne) [a [statement](#) was made]
- Indigenous Australians–[National Apology to Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples—6th anniversary](#)—moved by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator Scullion) and Senators Peris, Siewert and Xenophon [a [statement](#) was made]

- Law and justice–[Legal community–Adverse comments](#)–moved by Senator Wright

Motions negatived

- Environment–Air quality–[Impact of coal trains](#)–moved by Senator Rhiannon [a [statement](#) was made]
- Environment–[Unconventional gas industry](#)–moved by Senators Wright, Hanson-Young, Ludlam and Waters

Motion debated

[Employment–Job losses](#)–moved by Senator Carr

Potential conflicts of interest for ministerial staff

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) made a statement relating to answers given by the Assistant Minister for Health (Senator Nash) during question time today about potential conflicts of interest for ministerial staff [statements were made – [first speaker](#)]

Victoria Cross for Australia

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Abetz) made a statement about the awarding of the 100th Victoria Cross to the late Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird, MG [statements were made – [first speaker](#)]

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

Statistics

Statistics on the work of the Senate this week will be available in the [Statistical Summary](#), which forms part of [StatsNet](#)–the Department of the Senate’s online statistical collection.

Online

The *Senate Daily Summary* is available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day’s proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the [Journals of the Senate](#).

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Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or ‘Senate Red’) and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

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