

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 8 OF 2018

16 August 2018

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator David Bushby (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Brian Burston (United Australia Party Whip)

Senator Stirling Griff (Centre Alliance Whip)

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

Senator Derryn Hinch (Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Anne Urquhart (Opposition Whip)

Senator John Williams (The Nationals Whip)

Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins

Senator David Fawcett

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Senator Chris Ketter

Senator Tim Storer

Secretary: Rachel Callinan
 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

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1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 15 August 2018 at 7.25 PM.
2. The committee recommends that—
 - (a) the Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment (Censorship) Bill 2018 be ***referred immediately*** to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 3 December 2018 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (b) the Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment (Insult and Offend) Bill 2018 be ***referred immediately*** to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 3 December 2018 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral); and
 - (c) the Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment (Security) Bill 2018 be ***referred immediately*** to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 3 December 2018 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee recommends that the following bills ***not*** be referred to committees:
 - Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Amendment (Restoring the Debt Ceiling) Bill 2018
 - Farm Household Support Amendment (Temporary Measures) Bill 2018
 - Legislation Amendment (Sunsetting Review and Other Measures) Bill 2018
 - Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Reporting of Gas Reserves) Bill 2018
 - Plebiscite (Future Migration Level) Bill 2018
 - Social Services Legislation Amendment (Student Reform) Bill 2018
 - Treasury Laws Amendment (Financial Sector Regulation) Bill 2018.
4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
 - Customs Amendment (Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus Implementation) Bill 2018
 - Customs Tariff Amendment (Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus Implementation) Bill 2018
 - Intelligence Services Amendment (Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight of Intelligence Agencies) Bill 2018
 - National Energy Guarantee (Targets) Bill 2018
 - National Energy Guarantee Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
 - Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2018 Measures No. 1) Bill 2018
 - Tobacco Plain Packaging Amendment Bill 2018.

5. The committee considered an issue relating the membership requirements of the committee and decided not to recommend any change to the standing orders.

(David Bushby)

Chair

16 August 2018

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bills:

**Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment (Security) Bill 2018,
Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment (Insult and Offend) Bill 2018
Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment (Censorship) Bill 2018.**

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Whether:

-amendments to national security legislation since 2001 have over-reached by unnecessarily restricting free speech;
-the uncoordinated long-term accumulation across the Commonwealth statute book of offences for insulting or offending conduct are consistent and warranted; and
-censorship law aligns with the principle that adults, including those in the Northern Territory, should be able to watch/listen to what they wish, provided no one else is harmed.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

News media and journalist representative groups, civil liberty groups, lawyer groups, the tribunals protected by bans on insults, Northern Territory indigenous representative groups, video game industry groups, adult industry groups.

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Legal and Constitutional

Possible hearing date(s):

Possible reporting date:

(signed)

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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member