

*SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE*

*REPORT NO. 10 of 2013*

*4 December 2013*

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Senator Helen Kroger (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Anne McEwen (Opposition Whip)

Senator Bridget McKenzie (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Catryna Bilyk

Senator David Bushby

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

Senator Claire Moore

Secretary: Chris Reid  
 6277 3020

## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### REPORT NO. 10 OF 2013

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 4 December 2013 at 7.19 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
  - (a) the *provisions* of the Tax Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill 2013 be *referred immediately* to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 17 March 2014 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
  - (b) the *provisions* of the Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013 be *referred immediately* to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 17 March 2014 (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral); and
  - (c) the *provisions* of the Migration Amendment (Regaining Control Over Australia's Protection Obligations) Bill 2013 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 3 March 2014 (see appendices 3 and 4 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee resolved to recommend—That the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
  - Australian Capital Territory Water Management Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
  - Australian Civilian Corps Amendment Bill 2013
  - Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2013
  - Customs Amendment (Anti-Dumping Commission Transfer) Bill 2013
  - Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill 2013
  - Grape and Wine Legislation Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Bill 2013
  - Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013
  - Higher Education Support Amendment (Savings and Other Measures) Bill 2013
  - Import Processing Charges Amendment Bill 2013
  - Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013
  - National Health Amendment (Simplified Price Disclosure) Bill 2013
  - Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment Bill 2013
  - Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Cash Bidding) Bill 2013
  - Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment Bill 2013
  - Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment Bill 2013
  - Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Bill 2013

- Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Bill 2013
- Rural Research and Development Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
- Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

*The committee recommends accordingly.*

4. The committee considered the following bills but was unable to reach agreement:
  - Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
  - Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013.
5. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
  - Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
  - Fair Trade (Workers' Rights) Bill 2013
  - National Integrity Commission Bill 2013

(Helen Kroger)

**Chair**

4 December 2013

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

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

**Name of bill:** Tax Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill 2013

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

- Detailed scrutiny of the principles of the Bill, particularly in regards to the consequences of implementing exclusion criteria to the R&D Tax Incentive.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

- Australian Industry Group
- Michael Johnson Associates (MJA)
- Deloitte Access Economics
- Ernst & Young
- Minerals Council of Australia
- Innovation Australia
- Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia

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

**Possible hearing date(s):** Public hearings in January - February 2014

**Possible reporting date:** 17 March 2013

(signed)

Senator McEwen

  
Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

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

**Name of bill: Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013**

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

The Bill restructures Infrastructure Australia, changes its governance and permits the Minister to have a greater say on the type of projects that will be assessed, and how they will be assessed. It also changes arrangements for tax concessions for infrastructure projects. It replaces the existing IA members with a Board.

This is seeking to substantially rewrite current arrangements and these provisions need detailed committee consideration.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

- Infrastructure peaks
- Environment groups
- Public transport organisations
- Major construction companies
- State Governments
- Local government
- super funds
- investor organisations

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

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

**Possible reporting date:**

17 March 2014

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Senator McEwen

(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:** Migration Amendment (Regaining Control Over Australia's Protection Obligations) Bill 2013

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

Detailed scrutiny of the Bill, particularly with regards to removal of the Protection (Class XA) (subclass 866) visa, Australia's non-refoulement obligations being met, investigation of return to administrative procedure (resumption of Ministerial discretion)

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

UNHCR

Refugee Council of Australia

Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education

Foundation House

Refugee Foundation of Australia

Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre

Human Rights Commission

Recipients of the Protection Visa

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:** Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Legislation Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):** n/a

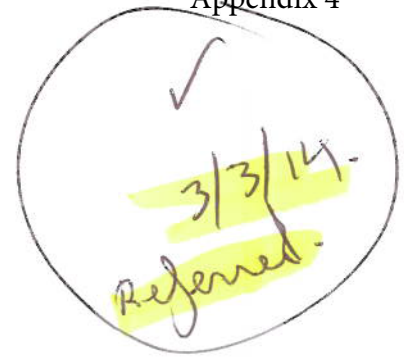
**Possible reporting date:** 3 March 2014

Senator McEwen

(signed)

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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

4/12/13



**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

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

**Name of bill:** Migration Amendment (Regaining Control Over Australia's Protection Obligations) Bill 2013

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

- To examine the impacts of removing complementary protection,
- To examine Australia's non-refoulement obligations, and
- Other related matters

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Amnesty International Australia  
 UNHCR  
 Human Rights Law Centre  
 Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre

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

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

**Possible reporting date:**

3 March 2014

Senator Siewert

(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:** Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013

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

This bill was not yet available at the time of the last Selection of Bills Committee meeting; therefore it wasn't possible to determine whether a reference was warranted.

The vulnerability of Australia's telecommunications cables carrying international and domestic traffic to interception has been the subject of recent reporting.

It is unclear whether the oversight mechanisms proposed are sufficient and whether the streamlining of permits processes outlined improve the security of this telecommunications infrastructure.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

- Telstra
- British Telecom,
- SingTel Optus,
- Australian Signals Directorate
- ASIO
- ANU Professor Des Ball
- CPR
- Electronic Frontiers Australia

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

**Possible hearing date(s):** January, February

**Possible reporting date:** 31 March 2013

(signed)

  
Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

*Consider had agreed.*

## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

**Name of bill:** Social Services and Other Legislation Amendments Bill 2013

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

- 1) To examine the social impact of the reversing the 2012 gambling reforms on families and communities.
- 2) To examine the social impact of abolishing the national regulator and removing gaming machine pre-commitment technology on the capacity for future reform.
- 3) To examine the effectiveness, including cost effectiveness, of income management as part of Cape York Welfare Reform
- 4) To examine number of people affected and the financial and social impacts of changing the Family tax benefit and eligibility rules on low income families whose children are not in fulltime study.
- 5) To examine the number of people who will be affected by the adjustment of the period of Australian working life residence rules and the social and financial impact of this legislation.
- 6) To examine the financial and social impact on income support recipients of applying an interest charge to unresolved overpayments of income support payments.
- 7) To examine the social and financial impacts of replacing student scholarships with start-up loans
- 8) To examine the impact of adjusting the paid parental leave scheme will have on claim rates by low income families.
- 9) To examine the number of people who will be affected by the closure of the Pension bonus scheme and the social and financial impact of this legislation on those affected.
- 10) To examine the financial and social implications of the indexation freeze (childcare rebate) on Australian families and the number of parents affected by the indexation freeze
- 11) To examine the number of people who will be affected by the changes to the rules for receiving payments overseas rules and the social and financial impact of this legislation.
- 12) To examine the financial impact of extending the deeming rules to account-based income streams on income support recipients and the number of people who will be affected by the legislation.
- 13) And other related matters.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Early Childhood Australia  
Goodstart Early Learning  
Community Childcare Cooperative  
Australian Childcare Alliance  
Department of Employment  
Department of Social Services  
Department of Human Services  
National Council of Single Mothers and their Children  
ACOSS  
Australian Institute of Family Studies  
National Welfare Rights Network  
FamilyVoice Australia  
Australian Family Association  
Uniting Care Australia  
COTA  
National Seniors  
Mission Australia

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

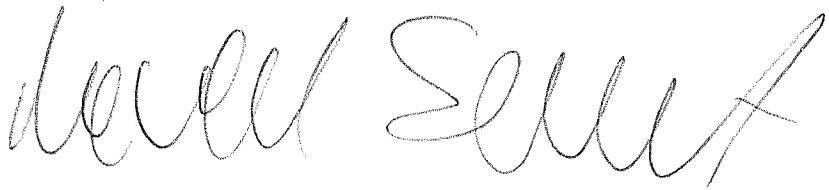
Community Affairs Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

Monday 3 February 2014  
Tuesday 4 February 2014

**Possible reporting date:**

Tuesday 18 February 2014



(signed)

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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE—  
PRESENTATION OF THE TENTH REPORT OF 2013—  
AMENDMENT AGREED TO BY THE SENATE ON 5 DECEMBER 2013**

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In respect of:

- (1) the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, the provisions of the bill be referred immediately to:
  - (a) the Education and Employment Legislation Committee for inquiry and report on Schedules 6 and 9 of the bill by 12 December 2013; and
  - (b) the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee for inquiry and report on Schedule 2 of the bill by 12 December 2013; and
  - (c) the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report on the remaining provisions of the bill by 12 December 2013; and
- (2) the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013, the provisions of the bill be referred immediately to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 31 March 2014.