

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 1 of 2015

12 February 2015

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator David Bushby (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Anne McEwen (Opposition Whip)

Senator Barry O'Sullivan (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Dio Wang (Palmer United Party Whip)

Senator Catryna Bilyk

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

Senator Claire Moore

Senator Anne Ruston

Secretary: Chris Reid
 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 1 OF 2015

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 11 February 2015 at 7.18 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
 - (a) the *provisions* of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Amendment (Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee Abolition) Bill 2014 be *referred immediately* to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 16 March 2015 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (b) the Criminal Code Amendment (Animal Protection) Bill 2015 be *referred immediately* to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 13 May 2015 (see appendices 2 and 3 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (c) the *provisions* of the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014 be *referred immediately* to the Education and Employment Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 12 March 2015 (see appendix 4 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (d) the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 21 April 2015 (see appendices 5 and 6 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (e) the Tribunals Amalgamation Bill 2014 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 16 March 2015 (see appendix 7 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee resolved to recommend—That the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
 - Mining Subsidies Legislation Amendment (Raising Revenue) Bill 2014
 - Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2014
 - Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment (Designated Coastal Waters) Bill 2014.

The committee recommends accordingly.

4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
 - Australian Centre for Social Cohesion Bill 2015
 - Corporations Amendment (Publish What You Pay) Bill 2014
 - Defence Amendment (Fair Pay for Members of the ADF) Bill 2014
 - Motor Vehicle Standards (Cheaper Transport) Bill 2014
 - Public Governance and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014
 - Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Caring for Single Parents) Bill 2014

- Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2014 Measures No. 7) Bill 2014
Excess Exploration Credit Tax Bill 2014.

(David Bushby)

Chair

12 February 2015

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

Name of bill:

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Amendment (Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee Abolition) Bill 2014

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Explore the impact of the bill on the development of corporate law reform

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Treasury; Financial Services Council; CAMAC; Law Council of Australia; Australian Institute of Company Directors; Governance Institute of Australia; Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

To be determined by the Committee

Possible reporting date:

~~15 March 2015~~
16 /

(signed)

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Print name: _____ Senator Catryna Bilyk _____

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

Name of bill: *Criminal Code Amendment (Animal Protection) Bill 2015*

(to be originated in the Senate on Wednesday, 11 February 2015)

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: This is an Ag-Gag bill, designed to silence whistleblowers and investigators/activists exposing animal cruelty and neglect – particularly in factory farming operations.

- It removes the ability for whistleblowers to build evidence of systemic industry-wide cruelty by forcing them to report incidents in isolation only.
- It will punish and disincentivise whistleblowers from within the industry by forcing their identification to authorities and risking their jobs.
- It will effectively guarantee legislated silence around factory farming cruelty and ensure positive reforms will never be possible. It also is a worrying precedent for any form of whistleblowing.

Possible submissions or evidence from: Animals Australia, Voiceless, Barristers Animal Welfare Panel, NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee, RSPCA (National and states), Animal Justice Party, World Animal Protection, Sentient, Humane Society International, PETA Australia, Compassion in World Farming, FREPA NSW.

Committee to which bill is to be referred: RRAT

Possible hearing date(s): June 15

Possible reporting date: June 25

(signed)



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Print name: Senator Rachel Siewert

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

Name of bill:

Criminal Code Amendment (Animal Protection) Bill 2015

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

To fully investigate the impact of the Bill and any unintended consequences.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Department of Agriculture
Attorney General's Department
RSPCA
Animals Australia
PETA
National Farmers' Federation

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

To be determined by the committee

Possible reporting date:

26 March 2015

(signed)


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Print name: _____ Senator Catryna Bilyk

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

Name of bill:

Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

- To examine changes from the Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill (2014) to the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill (2014) and to consider any further options
- To examine proposals to protect universities and students from declining standards and keep students and institutions competitive with rising standards internationally
- To examine measures to increase opportunity for up to 80,000 more Australians to access subsidized higher education, without having to pay upfront
- To examine proposals for choice for regional students by allowing universities to specialize in what they do best and offer pathway programs and new scholarships
- To consider the implications of not proceeding with the Bill.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

- Professor Sandra Harding and Ms Belinda Robinson, Universities Australia
- Professor John Dewar and Mr Conor King, Innovative Research Universities
- Professor David Lloyd and Ms Renee Hindmarsh, Australian Technology Network
- Professor Peter Lee and Dr Caroline Perkins, Regional Universities Network
- Professor Ian Young and Ms Vicki Thomson, Group of Eight
- Mr Malcolm White, TAFE Directors Australia
- Mr Rod Camm, Australian Council of Private Education and Training
- Dr Don Owers and Mr Adrian McComb, Council of Private Higher Education
- Other experts in the field and students and staff of higher education institutions.

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

To be determined by the Committee

Possible reporting date:

12 March 2015

(signed)


Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

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

Name of bill:

Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Explore impact and feasibility of a regulating body for the medicinal use of cannabis

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Department of Health
Attorney Generals Department
Therapeutic Goods Administration

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

To be determined by the committee

Possible reporting date:

16 June 2015

(signed)

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Print name: _____ Senator Catryna Bilyk _____

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

Name of bill:
Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

To hear evidence from national and international experts and those involved in the production and manufacture of medicinal cannabis as well as state and territory governments considering similar legislation.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Medical community, including pharmacologists and researchers; international suppliers, manufacturers and regulatory agencies; State and Territory Governments, consumers of medicinal cannabis

Committee to which bill is to be referred:
Legal and Constitutional

Possible hearing date(s):
March – April 2015

Possible reporting date:
March – April 2015

(signed)

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Print name: Senator Rachel Siewert.

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

Name of bill:

Tribunals Amalgamation Bill 2014

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Impact of amalgamation on:

- Access to justice
- Effectiveness of specialist jurisdictions currently exercised by SST, RRT

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Legal profession, social security and migration sectors

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

To be determined by the committee

Possible reporting date:

24 March 2015

(signed)

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Print name: _____ Senator Catryna Bilyk _____

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE—
PRESENTATION OF 1ST REPORT OF 2015—
AMENDMENT AGREED TO BY THE SENATE ON
12 FEBRUARY 2015**

In respect of the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014, the Education and Employment Legislation Committee report by 17 March 2015.