ATTACHMENT 2

CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE SENATORS' BILLS

The following table shows steps in the progress of a private senator's bill, how it is documented and what changes would be desirable to facilitate their consideration under the new procedures.

Stage	How documented	Desirable
(NB: some of these stages may occur concurrently)		
Bill introduced, read a first time, second reading moved and debate adjourned	Entered on the Notice Paper as a general business order of the day, given a unique number, stage reached is shown	PSBs to be listed in their own section of the Notice Paper under 'Orders of the Day for the consideration of private senators' bills'
NB: applies to a bill introduced in the Senate <u>or</u> <u>received from the House of</u> <u>Representatives and</u> <u>sponsored by a senator other</u> <u>than a minister</u>	Example: 34 Responsible Takeaway Alcohol Hours Bill 2010—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding) Second reading—Adjourned debate (Senator Fielding, in continuation, 30 September 2010).	
Consideration by Selection of Bills Committee and report to the Senate showing recommendations for bills to be referred or not referred, and list of bills deferred to another meeting <i>NB: a recommendation for</i> <i>non-referral does not</i> <i>preclude later referral by</i> <i>another method such as</i> <i>motion on notice or second</i> <i>reading amendment</i>	Selection of Bills Committee report reproduced in Journals and Hansard. Decisions arising from report reflected in Notice Paper, eg in 'Bills referred to committees' and 'Business for future consideration' section (which shows when reports are due and when bills become available for debate)	List of PSBs to be annotated and circulated by Table Office to whips and managers
If bill referred – consideration by a legislation or select committee and report to the Senate	Committee report and other records, including Journals, Notice Paper and Bills List	As above

Stage	How documented	Desirable
(NB: some of these stages may occur concurrently)		
Consideration by party rooms etc in accordance with internal party practices	Not publicly documented	Whips to feed this information into forward program list
Based on annotated list prepared by Table Office, Whips compile a forward program for each 6-month period, including notional allocation of Thursday mornings to parties/independents and possible list of bills to be considered, indicating debate-ready status of bills (all subject to change) [<i>NEW</i>]		List published on Senate website and circulated in the same way that a government's forward legislative program is circulated (<i>Table Office to</i> <i>provide secretariat support</i>) If this list is regularly updated as the status of bills changes, then it can be the source of information included on the weekly forward program issued by the PLO, provided that, in a non-sitting week preceding a sitting week, this information is available by COB Tuesday
Bill has been cleared through party processes (including any ministerial/Cabinet processes), has been reported from committee (or not referred) and is ready for debate	Bills are listed on the weekly forward program	Weekly forward program includes information on PSBs
	In <u>Week 1</u> , bills for consideration on Thursday are designated by a motion moved on the first available sitting day (Monday or Tuesday)	Once designated by motion, list of bills appears in the Notice Paper in 'Business for future consideration' under the relevant date, eg:
		On 16 June 2011
	For <u>Week 2</u> bills, the motion designating them is moved on Thursday of Week 1	General Business—Private Senators' Bills—Orders of the Day [list of bills]
		On the relevant date, this list appears at the front of the Notice Paper
		(NB: this happens currently)