



# Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 9 February 2012

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 7.42 pm

*The Senate will meet again on 27 February 2012. Senate committees will meet from 13 to 17 February 2012 to consider [additional estimates](#).*

## Legislation

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[Bills and related documents](#)

### Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Monitoring of Whaling) Bill 2012 [private senator's bill]
- Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 February 2012]
- Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Service Reform) Bill 2011 and 2 related bills [passed by the House of Representatives on 8 February 2012]

The following private senator's bill was debated

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bioregional Plans) Bill 2011—second reading debate continued [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were passed

- Customs Amendment (New Zealand Rules of Origin) Bill 2011 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]
- Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP and Other Measures) Bill 2011 [2012] [[first speaker](#)] [The House of Representatives will now consider this bill]
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Significant Incident Directions) Bill 2011 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]

See **Committees** for details of reports relating to legislation

## Committees

[Scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[Committee reports](#)

### Estimates

- [Additional information](#) arising from estimates hearings was tabled
- The Minister for Manufacturing (Senator Carr) tabled particulars of proposed additional expenditure, and the Senate referred the particulars to committees for examination and report

### Reports tabled

Report on legislation

- Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment (Online Games) Bill 2011—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee [[report](#)]

Other report

- Publications Committee—13th report [[report](#)] [a motion to adopt the report was agreed to]

### Documents tabled

- Regulations and Ordinances Committee—Delegated legislation monitor—Disallowable legislative instruments tabled in the Senate in 2011
- [Work of Committees](#)—1 January to 31 December 2011

### [Government responses](#) tabled

- Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity Joint Committee—Inquiry into the operation of the *Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006*—Interim and final reports
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—Human rights in the Asia-Pacific: Challenges and opportunities
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—
  - Defence's request for tender for aviation contracts [a [motion](#) to take note of the response was agreed to]
  - Part II: Incidents onboard HMAS *Success* between March and May 2009 and subsequent events
- Treaties Joint Committee—110th report—Treaties tabled 18, 25 [2] and 26 November 2009 and 2 [2] February 2010

### New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted [report no. 1 of 2012](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012—Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—to report by 27 February 2012

- ❑ Migration Amendment (Removal of Mandatory Minimum Penalties) Bill 2012–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 22 March 2012
- ❑ Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Income Support and Other Measures) Bill 2012–Community Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 19 March 2012
- ❑ Telecommunications Amendment (Mobile Phone Towers) Bill 2011–Environment and Communications Legislation Committee–to report by 9 May 2012

### Other references

- ❑ Prevention and treatment of problem gambling–Gambling Reform Joint Select Committee

### Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

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

- ❑ Australia’s Food Processing Sector Select Committee–29 February 2012 from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm–private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- ❑ Community Affairs Legislation and References Committees–9 February 2012 from 5.00 pm–private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- ❑ Economics Legislation Committee–9 February 2012 from 3.30 pm–private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee–
  - 27 February 2012 from 10.00 am to 11.30 am–Australia’s trade and investment relationship with Japan and the Republic of Korea; and from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm–Australia’s overseas representation
  - 19 March 2012 from 10.00 am to 11.30 am–Australia’s trade and investment relationship with Japan and the Republic of Korea

### Notice of motion to extend a reporting deadline

- ❑ Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee–Higher education and skills training for agriculture and agribusiness–to report by 8 June 2012

### Membership

The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership [see Journals entries [29](#) and [44](#)].

## Documents

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### 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]

## Orders for the production of documents

### Motion defeated

The Senate did not agree to a motion requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Evans) to table documents relating to the implementation cost of a \$1 bet limit on poker machines.

### Documents tabled

The Minister for Manufacturing (Senator Carr) [tabled](#) a statement and documents responding to the [order of the Senate](#) of 1 November 2011 requiring the production of documents relating to the Mineral Resource Rent Tax [a [motion](#) to take note of the documents was agreed to].

### *Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies*

A letter of advice for the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio was 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 grants*

Letters of advice for the Foreign Affairs and Trade and Education, Employment and Workplace Relations 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]

## Documents tabled

- [1 petition](#)
- Auditor-General–[Audit reports](#) nos 25 and 26 of 2011-12

## Documents discussed

Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed.

## Ministerial statements tabled

The Minister for Finance and Deregulation (Senator Wong) tabled ministerial statements about–

- Defence Security Authority vetting [a [motion](#) to take note of the statement was agreed to]
- livestock trade to the Middle East [a motion to take note of the statement was debated and agreed to – [first speaker](#)]

## Other business

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

### Motions agreed to

- [Australian Year of the Farmer 2012](#)—moved by Senators Siewert, Colbeck and Sterle
- [Death of Mr Arthur Beetson](#)—moved by Senator Rhiannon, the Assistant Treasurer (Senator Arbib) and the Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce)
- [Discriminatory legislation before the Legislative Assembly of St Petersburg](#)—moved by Senators Pratt and Hanson-Young
- [Syria](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

### Motions negatived

- [Communist Party of Australia and the Australian Greens](#)—moved by Senator Bernardi
- [Consideration of the Minerals Resource Rent Tax Bill 2011 package](#)—moved by Senator Cormann
- [Grocery retailing sector](#)—moved by Senator Milne
- [Register of the National Estate](#)—moved by Senator Wright
- [Sri Lanka](#)—moved by Senator Rhiannon
- [Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

### Motion debated

- [Reflections on members of Parliament](#)—moved by Senator Cash—1 Australian Greens amendment to the motion to be determined [[first speaker](#)]

### Questions on notice—Failure to provide answer

[Senator Cash](#) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Ludwig) why answers had not been provided to questions placed on notice during the consideration by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee of the 2011-12 supplementary Budget estimates. [Senator Ludwig](#) provided an explanation. A motion moved by [Senator Cash](#) to take note of the response was agreed to.

### Statement by President

The President made a [statement](#) endorsing rulings made by Temporary Chairs of Committees earlier in the day.

### Notices of motion

Notices of motion given today are available in the Senate Journals [see Journals entries [4](#) and [38](#)].

## Statistics

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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.

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### Online

The *Senate Daily Summary* is available at [www.aph.gov.au/senate](http://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*, at [www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/journals/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/journals/index.htm).

### 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](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate)

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