



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 22 March 2012

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 8.31 pm

The Senate has now completed the Autumn sittings and will commence the Budget sittings on [8 May 2012](#).

Legislation

[Bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-siphoning) Bill 2012 [Senate bill]
- ❑ Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Maintaining Address) Bill 2011 and a related bill [passed by the House of Representatives on 21 March 2012]
- ❑ Judges and Governors-General Legislation Amendment (Family Law) Bill 2012 [passed by the House of Representatives on 21 March 2012]
- ❑ Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2012 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ National Water Commission Amendment Bill 2012 [Senate bill]
- ❑ Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bets and Other Measures) Bill 2012 [private senators' bill]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings – 7 February to 22 March 2012]

- ❑ Family Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012
- ❑ Family Law Amendment (Validation of Certain Orders and Other Measures) Bill 2012
- ❑ Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Disability Support Pension Participation Reforms) Bill 2012

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Assisting Victims of Overseas Terrorism Bill 2012—second reading debate continued—1 Australian Greens second reading amendment to be determined [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Amendment Bill 2011—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Landholders' Right to Refuse (Coal Seam Gas) Bill 2011—second reading debate continued [[first speaker](#)]

The following bill was introduced, debated and passed

- Family Law Amendment (Validation of Certain Orders and Other Measures) Bill 2012 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]

The following bill was defeated by a majority vote

- Solar Hot Water Rebate Bill 2012—defeated at second reading [[first speaker](#)]

Messages from the House of Representatives

- Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Raising the Bar) Bill 2011 [2012]—agreeing to the bill without amendment [the bill will now be assented to]
- Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency Bill 2011 and a related bill—agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the bills [the bills will now be assented to]

Bills assented to

[Assent](#) to a number of laws was reported in the Senate.

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

Committees

[Scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[Committee reports](#)

Estimates

The Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee tabled a report into the 2011-12 additional estimates [[report](#)].

[Additional information](#) arising from estimates hearings was also tabled.

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- Air Navigation and Civil Aviation Amendment (Aircraft Crew) Bill 2011 and the Qantas Sale Amendment (Still Call Australia Home) Bill 2011—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee [[report](#)]
- Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment (R 18+ Computer Games) Bill 2012—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee [[report](#)]

Other reports

- Privileges Committee—151st report—Possible imposition of a penalty on, or interference with, a witness before the Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee [[report](#)] [[a motion](#) was moved in relation to the report]
- Publications Committee—15th report [[report](#)] [[a motion](#) to adopt the report was agreed to]
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 4](#) and [4th report](#) of 2012 [contains assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]

Documents tabled

- Community Affairs Legislation Committee–Social Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 and 2 related bills–Additional information
- Community Affairs References Committee–Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption practices–Additional information
- Regulations and Ordinances Committee–Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation for the period August to December 2011

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted [report no. 4 of 2012](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2012–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 18 June 2012
- Assisting Victims of Overseas Terrorism Bill 2012 and the Social Security Amendment (Supporting Australian Victims of Terrorism Overseas) Bill 2011–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 8 May 2012
- Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-siphoning) Bill 2012–Environment and Communications Legislation Committee–to report by 4 May 2012
- Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Bill 2012 and 4 related bills–Economics Legislation Committee and the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee–to report by 19 June 2012
- Corporations Amendment (Phoenixing and Other Measures) Bill 2012–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 8 May 2012
- Courts Legislation Amendment (Judicial Complaints) Bill 2012 and a related bill–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 18 June 2012
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) Bill 2012–Environment and Communications Legislation Committee–to report by 20 June 2012
- Health Insurance (Dental Services) Bill 2012 [No. 2]–Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee–to report by 8 May 2012
- Judges and Governors-General Legislation Amendment (Family Law) Bill 2012–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 8 May 2012
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Student Visas) Bill 2012–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 18 June 2012
- National Health Reform Amendment (Administrator and National Health Funding Body) Bill 2012–Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee–to report by 9 May 2012
- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Charges) Bill 2012–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 9 May 2012
- National Water Commission Amendment Bill 2012–Environment and Communications Legislation Committee–to report by 1 May 2012

- ❑ Skills Australia Amendment (Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency) Bill 2012–Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee–to report by 8 May 2012
- ❑ Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Bill 2012–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 18 June 2012

Meeting during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the Gambling Reform Joint Select Committee to hold a private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sitting of the Senate on 22 March 2012 from 5.00 pm.

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee–Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011–to report by 15 August 2012
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–Access to Justice (Federal Jurisdiction) Amendment Bill 2011–to report by 29 March 2012
- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–Operational issues in export grain networks–to report by 12 April 2012
- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee–Future direction and role of the committee–to report by 9 May 2012

Notice of motion to refer a matter to a committee

- ❑ Routine of business and the precedence granted to motions to refer matters of privilege to the Privileges Committee when the President gives precedence to such matters–Procedure Committee–notice given by the Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations (Senator Collins)

Membership

The Senate agreed to various changes to the membership of committees [see Journals entries nos [2](#) and [47](#)].

Documents

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

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

Letters of advice for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Documents discussed

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

Other business

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

Motions agreed to

- ❑ [Access to official portraits of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II under the Constituents' Request Program](#)—moved by Senators Ronaldson and Macdonald
- ❑ [Closing the gap](#)—moved by Senator Siewert
- ❑ [Procedures for dealing with matters of privilege](#)—moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Abetz) [The Senate did not agree to paragraph (b) of the motion]
- ❑ [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#)—moved by Senator Singh
- ❑ [World Tuberculosis Day](#)—moved by Senators Pratt and Rhiannon
- ❑ [World Water Day](#)—moved by Senators Rhiannon, Bob Carr and Boyce

Motions negated

- ❑ [Acknowledgement of country](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- ❑ [Administration of the Privileges Committee](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- ❑ [Farmers and Settlers' Association](#)—moved by the Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce) and Senators Nash, Scullion, Boswell, McKenzie and Williams
- ❑ [Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area](#)—moved by Senator Waters
- ❑ [Kirkham Inquiry](#)—moved by Senator Humphries
- ❑ [Mining industry](#)—moved by Senator Waters
- ❑ [Moratorium on coal seam gas mining](#)—moved by Senator Waters
- ❑ [Nuclear protests in India](#)—moved by Senator Ludlam
- ❑ [Privileges Committee](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- ❑ [Protection of marine life within the Great Australian Bight](#)—moved by Senator Wright

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

Statistics

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

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Related resources

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Contact details

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