



Senate Daily Summary

Monday, 21 March 2011

The Senate met from 10.00 am until 10.17 pm

Legislation

For [bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Australian Research Council Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2010 [passed by the House of Representatives on 3 March 2011]
- ❑ Native Title Amendment (Reform) Bill 2011 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Schools Assistance Amendment (Financial Assistance) Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 21 March 2011]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings]

- ❑ Corporations and Other Legislation Amendment (Trustee Companies and Other Measures) Bill 2011

The following bills were debated

- ❑ National Broadband Network Companies Bill 2010 and a related bill—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Sex and Age Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill 2010—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Temporary Flood and Cyclone Reconstruction Levy) Bill 2011 and a related bill—second reading agreed to [[first speaker](#)] and committee of the whole commenced

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Australian Civilian Corps Bill 2010—9 Government amendments agreed to [the House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]
- ❑ Corporations and Other Legislation Amendment (Trustee Companies and Other Measures) Bill 2011 [the bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Defence Legislation Amendment (Security of Defence Premises) Bill 2010 [the bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Health Insurance Amendment (Compliance) Bill 2010 [the bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Screen Australia (Transfer of Assets) Bill 2010 [the bill will now be assented to]

Notices of motion

To enable bills to be considered together

- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Bill 2010 [2011] and a related bill

National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011

–notice given by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Ludwig)

To exempt bills from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2010-2011
- Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2010-2011
- Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Rebate) Bill 2011
- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011
- Schools Assistance Amendment (Financial Assistance) Bill 2011

–notice given by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence (Senator Feeney)

Messages from the House of Representatives

Agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bills

- Evidence Amendment (Journalists' Privilege) Bill 2010
- National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010

[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

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- Combating the Financing of People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill 2011– Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee [\[report\]](#)
- National Broadband Network Companies Bill 2010 and a related bill– Environment and Communications Legislation Committee–[Interim report](#) and [final report](#)
- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Bill 2010 [2011] and related bills–Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee [\[report\]](#)
- Tax Laws Amendment (Temporary Flood and Cyclone Reconstruction Levy) Bill 2011 and a related bill–Economics Legislation Committee [\[report\]](#)

Other reports

- Scrutiny of New Taxes Select Committee–New taxes monitoring database–[Interim report](#)
- Treaties Joint Committee–[115th report](#)–Treaties tabled on 28 October and 24 November 2010 and treaties referred on 16 November 2010 (Part 2) [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]

Government response tabled

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee–Australian Civilian Corps Bill 2010

Documents tabled

- Consolidated register of Senate committee reports–Volume 2–2004 to 2010

New inquiry

The Senate referred [matters](#) relating to the giving of evidence to the Senate to the Privileges Committee.

New committee

A message from the House of Representatives was reported informing the Senate that the House had agreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate to the [resolution of appointment](#) of the National Broadband Network Joint Committee.

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

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

- Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity Joint Committee–21 March 2011 from 12.30 pm–Public meeting
- Environment and Communications Legislation Committee–21 March 2011–Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Gambling Reform Joint Select Committee–22 March 2011 from 4.00 pm–Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–21 March 2011 from 5.30 pm till 6.30 pm–Public meeting to take evidence on the inquiry into the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010 together with the amendments on sheet no. 7031 circulated by the Australian Greens
- Senators' Interests Committee–21 March 2011 from 10.00 am–Private briefing

Reporting date extended

The Senate agreed to extend the reporting date for the inquiry of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee into the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010 together with the amendments on sheet no. 7031 circulated by the Australian Greens to 28 March 2011.

Notices of motion

To extend a reporting deadline

- ❑ Economics References Committee—Impacts of supermarket price decisions on the dairy industry—to report by 20 April 2011

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- ❑ Cyber Safety Joint Select Committee—24 March 2011 from 9.30 am till 10.30 am—Public meeting
- ❑ Electoral Matters Joint Committee—23 March 2011 from 9.30 am till 10.45 am—to take evidence for the inquiry into the conduct of the 2010 Federal Election and matters related thereto
- ❑ Scrutiny of New Taxes Select Committee—24 March 2011 from 10.30 am till 12.30 pm—Public meeting

To refer matters to committees

- ❑ Eradication of the Asian honey bee—Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee—to report by 8 April 2011—notice given by Senator Milne
- ❑ Proposed acquisition of the Australian Stock Exchange by Singapore Exchange Limited—Economics References Committee—to report by 30 June 2011—notice given by Senator Xenophon
- ❑ Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2011—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 10 May 2011—notice given by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Ludwig)

Membership

The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) to committee memberships.

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

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

Letters of advice for various portfolios were tabled [see Journals entries nos [33](#) and [43](#)]
[Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Departmental and agency grants

A letter of advice for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations was tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

Statements of compliance 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 tabled

- [Government document](#)
- Parliamentary zone—proposal and documentation relating to the installation of artwork known as ‘The Prime Ministers’. A [notice of motion](#) was given to approve the proposal.
- Statement of reasons for the Government’s departure from advice of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission relating to the Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010

Other business

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

Motion agreed to

- [Eradication of the Asian honey bee in Australia](#)—moved by Senator Colbeck

Matter of public importance discussed

- [Proposed carbon tax](#)—proposed by Senator Fifield [[first speaker](#)]

Japan

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) moved a [motion](#) relating to the devastation in Japan. The motion was supported [[first speaker](#)].

Christchurch, New Zealand

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) moved a [motion](#) relating to the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. The motion was supported [[first speaker](#)].

Ministerial arrangements

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) informed the Senate of changes to the [Gillard Ministry](#).

Notices of motion

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

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