

**Senate Standing Committee
for the
Scrutiny of Bills**



Alert Digest

No. 18 of 2000

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Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills

Members of the Committee

Senator B Cooney (Chairman)
Senator W Crane (Deputy Chairman)
Senator T Crossin
Senator J Ferris
Senator B Mason
Senator A Murray

Terms of Reference

Extract from **Standing Order 24**

- (1) (a) At the commencement of each parliament, a Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills shall be appointed to report, in respect of the clauses of bills introduced into the Senate, and in respect of Acts of the Parliament, whether such bills or Acts, by express words or otherwise:
- (i) trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties;
 - (ii) make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined administrative powers;
 - (iii) make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon non-reviewable decisions;
 - (iv) inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or
 - (v) insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny.
- (b) The committee, for the purpose of reporting upon the clauses of a bill when the bill has been introduced into the Senate, may consider any proposed law or other document or information available to it, notwithstanding that such proposed law, document or information has not been presented to the Senate.

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- **The Committee has commented on these bills**

This Digest is circulated to all Honourable Senators.
Any Senator who wishes to draw matters to the attention of the
Committee under its terms of reference is invited to do so.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, [Portfolio responsibility: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs]

The bill proposes to amend the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* to:

- change the name of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commercial Development Authority to Indigenous Business Australia;
- expressly allow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission to outsource its commercial functions, including decision making relating to the application of the funds to Indigenous Business Australia; and
- provide the option of appointing a full-time Chairperson to Indigenous Business Australia.

Delegation to ‘a person’ Schedule 1, items 13 and 17

Section 7 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989* sets out the functions of the Commission. Paragraph 7(1)(a) provides that one of these functions is to “formulate and implement programs for Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders”.

Item 13 in Schedule 1 to this bill proposes to insert a new subsection 7(1A) in the principal Act. This subsection provides that a function referred to in paragraph 7(1)(a) need not be performed by the Commission itself, but may be performed by “other persons” who are authorised by the Commission to do so under contracts or agreements entered into by the Commission, or to whom the Commission has delegated the function.

Section 10 of the Principal Act sets out the powers of the Commission. Item 17 in Schedule 1 to this bill proposes to insert a new subsection 10(6) in the Principal Act. This subsection provides that, insofar as a person is authorised to perform a function as an agent or delegate of the Commission, the person

may exercise any of the Commission's powers for or in connection with the performance of the function.

Since its establishment, the Committee has consistently drawn attention to legislation which allows significant and wide-ranging powers to be delegated to anyone who fits the all-embracing description of 'a person'. Generally, the Committee prefers to see a limit set either on the sorts of powers that might be delegated, or on the categories of people to whom those powers might be delegated. The Committee's preference is that delegates be confined to the holders of nominated officers or to members of the Senior Executive Service.

Neither of the amendments proposed by this bill imposes any limit on the functions or powers that may be delegated. The Committee, therefore, **seeks the Minister's advice** as to why the bill provides such a wide power of delegation.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to these provisions, as they may be considered to make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined administrative powers, in breach of principle 1(a)(ii) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2000-2001

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister for Finance and Public Administration. [Portfolio responsibility: Finance and Public Administration]

The bill proposes to appropriate money (\$1879 million) out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the appropriation made by the Appropriation Act (No 1) 2000-2001, to meet payments for the ordinary services of the government for the year ending on 30 June 2001.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2000-2001

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister for Finance and Public Administration. [Portfolio responsibility: Finance and Public Administration]

The bill proposes to appropriate money (\$378 million) out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the appropriation made by the Appropriation Act (No 2) 2000-2001, to meet payments for the ordinary services of the government for the year ending on 30 June 2001.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2000-2001

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister for Finance and Public Administration. [Portfolio responsibility: Finance and Public Administration]

The bill proposes to appropriate money (\$0.5 million) out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the appropriation made by the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act 2000-2001, to meet payments for the ordinary services of the government for the year ending on 30 June 2001.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Auditor of Parliamentary Allowances and Entitlements Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 27 November 2000 by Leader of the Opposition (Mr Beazley) as a Private Member's bill.

The bill proposes to establish the office of the Auditor of Parliamentary Allowances and Entitlements as an independent office of the Parliament to investigate and report to the Parliament on matters associated with the use of parliamentary allowances. The Auditor will have a wide range of powers modelled on those of the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman, including the powers to enter premises, access and copy documents and report on any member of the parliament who refuses to cooperate with an inquiry or on any other matter.

Consequential amendments are also made to the *Auditor-General Act 1997* and the *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951*.

Search and entry provision

Clause 21

This bill is the same as a bill of the same name introduced into the Senate by Senator Faulkner on 1 November 2000, and on which the Committee reported in its *Seventeenth Report of 2000*.

In that Report, the Committee drew attention to clause 21, which is reproduced in this bill. This clause permits the Auditor established by the bill (or a duly authorised member of his or her staff), at all reasonable times to enter any premises for the purposes of inquiring into a person's receipt or use of parliamentary entitlements or allowances. No provision is made for obtaining a warrant from a judicial officer.

The Committee sought the advice of the Senator sponsoring the bill as to the reasons for clause 21 not requiring that the Auditor obtain a warrant if he or she could not enter with consent. In his response, Senator Faulkner stated that clause 21 was based on section 33 of the *Auditor-General Act 1997*, though it differed from that section in not being confined to Commonwealth property.

The Committee considered that the restriction to Commonwealth property in the Auditor-General Act represented a substantial limitation which had not been included in clause 21, and continued to draw the Senate's attention to the provision.

For similar reasons, the Committee draws Senators' attention to this provision, as it may be considered to trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties, in breach of principle 1(a)(i) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Abrogation of the privilege against self-incrimination

Clause 23

Clause 23 of this bill will abrogate the privilege against self-incrimination where a person is required to provide documents or information under clause 20. However, clause 23 limits the circumstances in which any information so provided may be used in evidence in proceedings against that person – in general terms, neither the document or information, nor anything obtained as a direct or indirect result, is admissible in any criminal proceedings (other than proceedings for a failure to provide information, or for providing false or misleading information). In these circumstances, the Committee accepts that this provision strikes a reasonable balance between the competing interests of obtaining information and protecting the rights of individuals.

In these circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Communications and the Arts Legislation Amendment Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 November 2000 by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. [Portfolio responsibility: Communications, Information Technology and the Arts]

The bill proposes to amend the following Acts:

- *Public Lending Right Act 1985* to incorporate a statement of objectives of the Public Lending Right Scheme in the Act, and to make minor amendments to the definition of prescribed persons, to remove references in the Act to beneficiaries as prescribed persons; and to clarify the process of making final payments in respect of deceased creators.
- *Telecommunications Act 1997* to provide certain carriers and carriage service providers (CSPs) with immunity in certain emergency situations when required to comply with a designated disaster plan.
- *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* to substitute an Australian Business Number (ABN) for Australian Company Number (ACN) reference; and the
- *Trade Practices Act 1974* (TPA) to:
 - fix an anomaly in the TPA to enable the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to issue an advisory notice at the same time as it issues a Part A competition notice;
 - update a reference in the TPA which now covers USO charges and to require the ACCC to monitor and report on each digital service provider's compliance with the digital data service obligation in the same way it monitors and reports on compliance with the USO; and
 - make minor changes to the processes by which the ACCC exercises procedural functions in an access arbitration.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Migration Legislation Amendment (Integrity of Regional Migration Schemes) Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. [Portfolio responsibility: Immigration and Multicultural Affairs]

The bill proposes to amend the *Migration Act 1958* to introduce a new cancellation power for regional sponsored migration scheme visas. The regional sponsored migration scheme is intended to encourage the migration of skilled persons for the benefit of regional and rural Australia. The amendments seek to prevent any potential misuse of the scheme, and discourage persons who have no genuine intention of settling in rural or regional Australia. The amendments will not affect existing scheme visa holders or persons who are granted a scheme visa as a result of an application made before the amendments commence.

Rights and liberties on the termination of employment Proposed new subsection 137Q(2)

Among other things, this bill proposes to include a new section 137Q in the *Migration Act 1958*. Under proposed subsection 137Q(2), the Minister may cancel a regional sponsored employment visa held by a person if the Minister is satisfied that “the employment terminated” within 2 years of commencement and “the person does not satisfy the Minister that he or she has made a genuine effort to be engaged in that employment for the required [2 year] period”. Where a visa is cancelled under section 137Q, visas held by other members of the family unit are similarly cancelled under proposed section 137T. Paragraph 137S(b) indicates that, in some circumstances, a decision to cancel a visa may be reviewable under Part 5 of the Act.

In his Second Reading Speech, the Minister provides an example of a situation in which the new cancellation power could be used. In this example, a person applied for, and was granted, a regional sponsored migration scheme visa at a Departmental office overseas. On arrival in Australia, this visa holder informed his nominating employer that he did not want to start work immediately, then moved to a capital city in another State and presented at Centrelink for assistance. The Committee has no concerns with legislation which addresses situations such as these.

Elsewhere in his Second Reading Speech, the Minister observes that the new cancellation power “would not generally be used where a nominating employer terminates the employment contract within the two year period”. Cancelling a visa in such a situation “would not serve the purposes of the scheme particularly where the circumstances leading to the termination are outside the employer’s or visa-holder’s control”.

It is arguable that such situations of involuntary termination may be covered by the proviso that a visa holder must demonstrate “a genuine effort” to be engaged in employment for the required period. However, it would lead to greater certainty if the bill itself reflected the approach to involuntary termination which is referred to in the Second Reading Speech. The Committee, therefore, **seeks the Minister’s advice** as to whether the bill should explicitly provide that a visa will not be cancelled where the visa holder’s employment is terminated in circumstances outside the employer’s or visa-holder’s control. The Committee also **seeks the Minister’s advice** as to the circumstances in which a decision to cancel a regional sponsored employment visa is reviewable under the Act.

Pending the Minister’s advice, the Committee draws Senators’ attention to this provision, as it may be considered to trespass unduly or personal rights and liberties, in breach of principle 1(a)(i) of the Committee’s terms of reference.

Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Agents) Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. [Portfolio responsibility: Immigration and Multicultural Affairs]

The bill proposes to amend the *Migration Act 1958* to change the scheme for the regulation of migration agents by:

- providing powers to allow the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) to commence or complete the investigation of complaints against an agent even if the agent is no longer registered, and to subsequently impose a bar on the return of the agent to the industry if it is satisfied that the complaint is made out;
- including carry-over provisions for agents applying for repeat registration so that they will continue to be registered until MARA has made a decision on their application; and
- introducing a flexible mechanism for further defining the kinds of activities which come within the scope of the regulatory scheme.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Pig Industry Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 November 2000 by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. [Portfolio responsibility: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries]

The bill proposes to create a pig industry services body responsible for the industry's strategic policy development as well as the industry's marketing and R&D services, formerly provided by the Australian Pork Corporation (APC) and the Pig Research and Development Corporation (PRDC). The bill will repeal the enabling legislation for the APC and the PRDC and provide for the transfer of assets, liabilities and staff of the statutory authorities to the new industry services body.

The new not-for-profit industry services body, limited by guarantee, will operate under Corporations Law and all statutory levy payers will be eligible to register for membership and full voting rights in the industrial services body.

The bill also provides the Minister with the power to enter into a funding contract with an eligible body to enable that body to receive and administer levies collected by the Commonwealth for industry marketing and promotion, research and development (R&D), and the Commonwealth's matching funding for eligible R&D expenditure. The contract will also impose certain obligations and accountability requirements on the industry services body.

Parliamentary scrutiny of Ministerial decision

Subclause 9(1)

Subclause 9(1) of this bill authorises the Minister (on behalf of the Commonwealth) to enter into a contract with an eligible body (or with an eligible body and other persons) that provides for the Commonwealth to make marketing, R&D and matching payments to that body. An eligible body is defined simply as "a body that is registered under the Corporations Law as a company limited by guarantee". "Other persons" is not defined, and the bill does not specify any qualifications or attributes which those persons should or should not possess.

Once a funding contract with a body is entered into, the Minister may then declare that body to be the pig industry services body.

The bill makes no provision for Parliamentary scrutiny of these Ministerial decisions. In its *Seventeenth Report of 2000* the Committee drew attention to a similar Ministerial discretion to enter into a deed of agreement with, and to determine, an industry services body for the horticulture industry. Notably, the Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Bill 2000 also authorised the Minister to declare that a body should cease to be the relevant industry services body – something apparently not contemplated by this bill.

The Committee, therefore, **seeks the Minister’s advice** as to why the exercise of the discretion to contract with, and declare, an eligible body should not be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny or some form of review. The Committee also **seeks the Minister’s advice** as to the persons contemplated by the term “other persons” and whether these persons should be limited in some way by reference to appropriate qualifications or attributes.

Finally, the Committee notes that Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Bill 2000 was subsequently amended in the Senate to take account of issues raised by the Committee. The Committee **seeks the Minister’s advice** as to whether this bill might be amended in similar terms.

Pending the Minister’s advice, the Committee draws Senators’ attention to this provision, as it may insufficiently subject the exercise of delegated legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny, in breach of principle 1(a)(v) of the Committee’s terms of reference.

Non disallowable Ministerial directions

Clause 12

Clause 12 of this bill authorises the Minister to give a binding written direction to the declared pig industry services body if the Minister:

- is satisfied that such a direction is “in Australia’s national interest because of exceptional and urgent circumstances”; and

- is satisfied that the direction would not require the body to incur expenses greater than amounts paid to the body under the Act; and
- has given the directors an adequate opportunity to discuss with the Minister the need for the proposed direction and its impact on the body's commercial activities.

Such a direction must be made for a purpose that is within the Commonwealth's legislative power.

Under subclause 12(3), the Minister must table a copy of such a direction within 15 sitting days "unless the Minister makes a written determination that doing so would be likely to prejudice the national interest of Australia or the body's commercial activities".

In its *Seventeenth Report of 2000*, the Committee considered a similar clause in the Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Bill 2000. The Committee again notes that neither "the national interest" nor "exceptional and urgent circumstances" are defined in the bill or referred to in the Explanatory Memorandum. In addition, clause 12 makes no provision for Parliamentary scrutiny of a Ministerial direction to the industry services body. Further, were the Minister to make a written determination not to table such a direction (on national interest or commercial prejudice grounds), it is not clear whether, and how, Parliament would be informed of the fact that such a determination had been made.

With regard to this bill, the Committee **seeks the Minister's advice** as to:

- the circumstances contemplated by the terms "the national interest" and "exceptional and urgent circumstances";
- the reason why the bill makes no provision for Parliamentary scrutiny of directions under clause 12, or how the Parliament is to be made aware of, and able to scrutinise, determinations not to table such directions; and
- the appropriateness of retaining key powers, such as the ability to issue binding Ministerial directions, while establishing a new company which is to be accountable to shareholders for the effective use of funds provided.

The Committee notes that Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Bill 2000 was subsequently amended in the Senate to

take account of issues raised by the Committee. The Committee also **seeks the Minister's advice** as to whether this bill might be amended in similar terms.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to this provision, as it may insufficiently subject the exercise of delegated legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny, in breach of principle 1(a)(v) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Remuneration Tribunal Amendment Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Public Administration. [Portfolio responsibility: Finance and Public Administration]

The bill proposes to amend the role of the Remuneration Tribunal in relation to principal executive offices by:

- allowing the Tribunal to make recommendations to the Minister on the classification and commencing remuneration to apply to each principal executive office;
- specifying that the employing body of a principal executive office may determine terms and conditions for the office only in a manner that is consistent with the Tribunal's classification structure for principal executive offices, or in accordance with specific written advice received from the Tribunal; and
- allowing for transitional arrangements for offices that were declared by regulation to be a principal executive office, before drafting of this Bill commenced.

Inappropriate delegation of legislative power Schedule 1, items 2 and 6

Item 2 of Schedule 1 to this bill proposes to add a new paragraph (m) to the definition of *principal executive office*. This new paragraph includes within the definition "any other office or appointment declared by the Minister ... to be a principal executive office".

In similar terms, item 6 of Schedule 1, among other things, proposes to insert a new subsection 3A(1) in the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*. This section authorises the Minister to declare that a specified office or appointment is a principal executive office and, by virtue of proposed new section 3C, such a declaration must be published in the *Gazette*. However, such a declaration is not subject to any Parliamentary oversight. This is in direct contrast to the current provision under which *principal executive office* is defined to mean "an office or appointment declared by the regulations ... to be a principal executive office". Regulations are disallowable instruments.

The Explanatory Memorandum notes that, while the Act currently vests the power to create a principal executive office in the Governor-General, he does not have the power to identify the remuneration to apply to that office. The Explanatory Memorandum goes on to observe that, transferring this power to the Minister, together with the power to identify remuneration, is “designed to improve accountability”.

The Committee **seeks the Minister’s advice** as to why the power to be transferred from the Governor-General to the Minister will not be subject to the Parliamentary oversight applicable to the existing power.

Pending the Minister’s advice, the Committee draws Senators’ attention to this provision, as it may be considered to inappropriately delegate legislative powers, in breach of principle 1(a)(iv) of the Committee’s terms of reference.

Roads to Recovery Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 November 2000 by the Minister for Transport and Regional Development. [Portfolio responsibility: Transport and Regional Development]

The bill proposes to appropriate money for the Roads to Recovery Program, which provides additional funding for local roads in rural, regional and metropolitan areas. The funds are to be provided in the form of grants to local government bodies for expenditure on roads.

The bill provides a mechanism for specifying the funding to be received by each local government body over the life of the program and the conditions on which the funds are provided. The Explanatory Memorandum lists the local government bodies to be funded and the grants payable over the life of the program.

Tabling in one house of the Parliament

Clause 3

Clause 3 of this bill defines a ‘tabled list’ as “the funding allocation list that was tabled in the House of Representatives in relation to the Bill for this Act”. With reference to this provision, the Explanatory Memorandum states that the ‘tabled list’ is “the list attached to this Explanatory Memorandum”.

The usual procedure whenever documents are to be tabled is to require that they be tabled in each House of the Parliament. This is recognised elsewhere in this bill – for example, clause 10 requires that an annual report on the operation of the Act “be tabled in each House of the Parliament”.

The Committee, therefore, **seeks the Minister’s advice** on the reason for providing that the tabled list be the list tabled in only one House.

Pending the Minister’s advice, the Committee draws Senators’ attention to this provision, as it may be considered to insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny, in breach of principle 1(a)(v) of the Committee’s terms of reference.

Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) Bill 2000

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 November 2000 by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. [Portfolio responsibility: Veterans' Affairs]

The bill proposes to amend the *Defence Service Homes Act 1918* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* to harmonise all offence-creating and related provisions with the general principles of criminal responsibility as codified in Chapter 2 of the *Criminal Code*.

Strict liability offences

Schedule 1, items 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 23-26, 29, 32 and 40

The effect of this bill is to include in the *Defence Services Homes Act 1918* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* a number of offences which are specified as being offences of strict liability.

With regard to these provisions, the Explanatory Memorandum observes that they “are intended to ensure that the relevant offences continue to have much the same meaning and to operate in the same manner as they do at present”. The reason for the changes, therefore, is simply to ensure that the two primary Acts are consistent with the *Criminal Code*.

In these circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on these provisions.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Unfair Dismissals) Bill 1998

This bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 November 2000 by the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business. [Portfolio responsibility: Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business]

This bill has been reintroduced into the House of Representatives after the Senate negatived the bill on 14 August 2000.

The bill proposes to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* to:

- require a 6 month qualifying period of employment before new employees (other than apprentices and trainees) can access an unfair dismissal remedy under the Act; and
- exclude new employees of small businesses with no more than 15 employees (other than apprentices and trainees) from the unfair dismissal remedy under the Act.

The exclusion will not affect the rights of existing employees, the rights of apprentices or trainees, or the rights of small business employees and employees with less than six months service, to take action against unlawful termination of employment.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

PROVISIONS OF BILLS WHICH IMPOSE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS FOR A FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

REPORT NO 10/2000

The Committee's *Eighth Report of 1998* dealt with the appropriate basis for penalty provisions for offences involving the giving or withholding of information. In that Report, the Committee recommended that the Attorney-General develop more detailed criteria to ensure that the penalties imposed for such offences were "more consistent, more appropriate, and make greater use of a wider range of non-custodial penalties". The Committee also recommended that such criteria be made available to Ministers, drafters and to the Parliament.

The Government responded to that Report on 14 December 1998. In that response, the Minister for Justice referred to the ongoing development of the Commonwealth *Criminal Code*, which would include rationalising penalty provisions for "administration of justice offences". The Minister undertook to provide further information when the review of penalty levels and applicable principles had taken place.

For information, the following Table sets out penalties for 'information-related' offences in the legislation covered in this *Digest*. The Committee notes that imprisonment is still prescribed as a penalty for some such offences.

TABLE

<i>Bill/Act</i>	Section/Subsection	Offence	Penalty
<i>Auditor of Parliamentary Allowances and Entitlements Bill 2000</i>	Subclause 20(3)	Fail to answer questions or produce documents to inspector	10 penalty units
	Clause 22	Knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents	20 penalty units

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF BILLS

INDEX OF BILLS COMMENTED ON AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES SOUGHT/RECEIVED - 2000

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT RECEIVED	REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE			
Bills Carried over from 1999						
Convention on Climate Change (Implementation) Bill 1999	14(22.9.99)	2.9.99	2.9.99	Senator Brown	3.9.99	
Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Bill 1999	14(22.9.99)	2.9.99	14.8.00	Attorney-General	23.9.99	10(16.8.00)
Criminal Code Amendment (Theft, Fraud, Bribery and Related Offences) Bill 1999 (new citation: Criminal Code Amendment (Theft, Fraud, Bribery and Related Offences) Bill 2000)	19(1.12.99)	24.11.99	30.10.00	Justice and Customs	2.12.99	15(1.11.00)
Fair Prices and Better Access for All (Petroleum) Bill 1999	14(22.9.99)	30.8.99	--	Mr Fitzgibbon	23.9.99	23.12.99 DC 3.4.00
Fisheries Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 1999	14(22.9.99)	1.9.99	14.10.99	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	23.9.99	14.2.00 1(16.2.00) Act No. 143
<i>Migration Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 1999</i> (previous citation: Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1998)	1(15.2.99)	30.6.99	3.12.98	Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	16.2.99	23.3.99 4(24.3.99)
					25.3.99	22.6.99 10(23.6.99)
					24.6.99	20.12.99 1(16.2.00)
					7.2.00	
<i>Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Act 1999</i>	14(22.9.99)	2.9.99	14.10.99	Attorney-General	23.9.99	17(20.10.99)
					21.10.99	16.3.00 3(5.4.00)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST		INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
			HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills being dealt with during 2000								
A New Tax System (Family Assistance and Related Measures) Bill 2000	3(15.3.00)	9.3.00	5.4.00	Family and Community Services	16.3.00	4.4.00	5(12.4.00)	
Administrative Review Tribunal Bill 2000	10(16.8.00)	28.6.00	Attorney-General	17.8.00				
Administrative Review Tribunal (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2000	15(1.11.00)	12.10.00	Attorney-General	2.11.00				
Aged Care Amendment Bill 2000	13(4.10.00)	7.9.00	12.10.00	Health and Aged Care	5.10.00	25.10.00	15(1.11.00)	
Auditor of Parliamentary Allowances and Entitlements Bill 2000	16(8.11.00)	1.11.00	Senator Faulkner	9.11.00	24.11.00	17(29.11.00)		
Aviation Noise Ombudsman Bill 2000	13(4.10.00)	4.9.00	Mr Albanese MP	5.10.00	6.10.00			
Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill (No. 3) 1999	1(16.2.00)	6.12.99	9.12.99	Communications, Information and the Arts	17.2.00	4.5.00	Act No.198 7(7.6.00)	
Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill (No. 4) 1999 (new citation: Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill 2000)	1(16.2.00)	9.12.99	7.11.00	Communications, Information and the Arts	17.2.00	4.5.00	16(8.11.00)	
Charter of Political Honesty Bill 2000	15(1.11.00)	10.10.00	Senator Murray	2.11.00	27.11.00	17(29.11.00)		
Child Support Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2000	12(6.9.00)	30.8.00	2.11.00	Family and Community Services	7.9.00	25.9.00	15(1.11.00)	
Crimes Amendment (Forensic Procedures) Bill 2000	12(6.9.00)	30.8.00	Justice and Customs	7.9.00	27.9.00	13(4.10.00)		
Criminal Assets Recovery Bill 2000	4(5.4.00)	13.3.00	--	Mr Kerr, ALP	6.4.00	17.5.00	DC	

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST		INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT		REPORT NUMBER
			HOUSE	SENATE			RECEIVED	
Criminal Code Amendment (United Nations and Associated Personnel) Bill 2000	10(16.8.00)		28.6.00	7.9.00	Attorney-General	17.8.00	3.10.00	13(4.10.00)
Customs Legislation Amendment (Criminal Sanctions and Other Measures) Bill 1999 <small>(new citation: Customs Legislation Amendment (Criminal Sanctions and Other Measures) Bill 2000</small>	*19(1.12.99) 2(8.3.00)		24.11.99	13.3.00	Justice and Customs	9.3.00		Act No. 23
Dairy Industry Adjustment Bill 2000	2(8.3.00)		16.2.00	15.3.00	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	9.3.00	14.3.00	2(15.3.00)
Defence Legislation Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Bill 2000	10(16.8.00)		28.6.00	14.8.00	Defence	17.8.00	25.8.00	11(28.8.00)
Education Services for Overseas Students (Assurance Fund Contributions) Bill 2000	12(6.9.00)		30.8.00	10.11.00	Education, Training and Youth Affairs	7.9.00	24.11.00	17(29.11.00)
Education Services for Overseas Students	12(6.9.00)		30.8.00	27.11.00	Education, Training and Youth Affairs	7.9.00	24.11.00	17(29.11.00)
Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment Bill 2000 Bill 2000	12(6.9.00)		30.8.00	10.11.00	Education, Training and Youth Affairs	7.9.00	24.11.00	17(29.11.00)
Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2000	15(1.11.00)			10.10.00	Senator Murray	2.11.00	27.11.00	17(29.11.00)
Excise Amendment (Compliance Improvement) Bill 2000	9(28.6.00)		21.6.00	22.6.00	Treasurer	29.6.00	11.8.00	10(16.8.00)
Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2000	3(15.3.00)		9.3.00	13.4.00	Family and Community Services	16.3.00	4.4.00	6(10.5.00)
Financial Management and Accountability Amendment Bill 2000	7(7.6.00)		10.5.00	8.6.00	Finance and Administration	8.6.00	20.6.00	8(21.6.00)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2000	6(10.5.00)	13.4.00	26.6.00	Treasurer	11.5.00	25.5.00	9(28.6.00)
Fuel Quality Standards Bill 2000	13(4.10.00)	9.11.00	7.9.00	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	5.10.00 12.10.00	10.10.00 7.10.00	14(11.10.00) 16(8.11.00)
Gene Technology Bill 2000	9(28.6.00)	22.6.00	30.8.00	Health and Aged Care	29.6.00	12.10.00	15(1.11.00)
Gene Technology (Licence Charges)	9(28.6.00)	22.6.00	30.8.00	Health and Aged Care	29.6.00	12.10.00	15(1.11.00)
Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Bill 2000	14(11.10.00)	5.10.00	8.11.00	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	12.10.00	1.11.00	17(29.11.00)
Interactive Gambling (Moratorium) Bill 2000	11(30.8.00)	--	17.8.00	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	31.8.00	3.10.00	13(4.10.00) NEG
Job Network Monitoring Authority Bill 2000	16(8.11.00)	30.10.00		Ms Kernot	9.11.00		
Job Network Monitoring Authority Bill 2000 [No. 2]	16(8.11.00)	30.10.00		Senator Collins	9.11.00		
Jurisdiction of Courts Legislation Amendment Bill 2000	3(15.3.00)	8.3.00	11.4.00	Attorney-General	16.3.00	30.3.00 13.4.00	5(12.4.00) 6(10.5.00)
Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2000	4(5.4.00)	14.3.00		Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	6.4.00	26.4.00	
Migration Legislation Amendment (Parents and Other Measures) Bill 2000	8(21.6.00)	7.6.00	27.6.00	Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	22.6.00	27.6.00	9(28.6.00)
National Crime Authority Amendment Bill 2000	4(5.4.00)	13.3.00	--	Mr Kerr	6.4.00	17.5.00	DC

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT	RESPONSE RECEIVED	REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE				
New Business Tax System (Miscellaneous) Bill (No. 2) 2000	6(10.5.00)	13.4.00	27.6.00	Treasurer	11.5.00	8.6.00	9(28.6.00)
Pooled Development Funds Amendment Bill 1999	1(16.2.00)	8.12.99	13.4.00	Industry, Science and Resources	17.2.00	2.3.00	6(10.5.00)
Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2000	5(12.4.00)	6.4.00		Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	13.4.00		
Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000	6(10.5.00)	12.4.00	28.11.00	Attorney-General	11.5.00	4.10.00	17(29.11.00)
Product Grants and Benefits Administration Bill 2000	6(10.5.00)	12.4.00	11.5.00	Treasurer	11.5.00	5.6.00	7(7.6.00)
Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability) Amendment Bill 2000	10(16.8.00)	28.6.00	31.8.00	Transport and Regional Services	17.8.00	4.9.00	12(6.9.00)
Renewable Energy (Electricity) Bill 2000	9(28.6.00)	22.6.00	14.8.00	Environment and Heritage	7.9.00	15.9.00	13(4.10.00)
Sales Tax (Industrial Safety Equipment) (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2000	7(7.6.00)	11.5.00	5.6.00	Treasurer	29.6.00	14.8.00	10(16.8.00)
Sex Discrimination Legislation Amendment (Pregnancy and Work) Bill 2000	4(5.4.00)	13.3.00		Mrs Macklin	8.6.00	20.6.00	8(21.6.00)
Sex Discrimination Legislation Amendment (Pregnancy and Work) Bill 2000 [No. 2]	4(5.4.00)		14.3.00	Senator Crossin	6.4.00	7.9.00	13(4.10.00)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (Private Trusts and Private Companies—Integrity of Means Testing) Bill 2000	11(30.8.00)	17.8.00	3.10.00	Family and Community Services	20.9.00		13(4.10.00)
States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Bill 2000	11(30.8.00)	29.6.00	9.10.00	Education, Training and Youth Affairs	4.9.00	31.8.00	14(11.10.00)
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Bill 1999 (new citation: Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Bill 2000)	1(16.2.00)	26.6.00	8.12.99	Environment and Heritage	22.3.00	17.2.00	3(5.4.00)
Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 11) 1999	1(16.2.00) 2(8.3.00)	9.12.99	10.5.00	Treasurer	30.3.00 5.4.00	17.2.00 9.3.00	7(7.6.00)
Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions) Bill 2000	14(11.10.00)	7.9.00	5.10.00	Treasurer	31.10.00	12.10.00	15(1.11.00)
Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2000	7(7.6.00)	10.5.00	22.6.00	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	2.8.00	8.6.00	10(16.8.00)
Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2000	10(16.8.00)	29.6.00	11.10.00	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	10.10.00	17.8.00	14(11.10.00)
Telecommunications (Interception) Legislation Amendment Bill 2000	3(15.3.00)	16.2.00	13.3.00	Attorney-General	27.4.00	16.3.00	6(10.5.00)
Telecommunications (Universal Service Levy) Amendment Bill 2000	10(16.8.00)	29.6.00	11.10.00		10.10.00		14(11.10.00)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Trade Practices Amendment (Unconscionable Conduct—Saving of State and Territory Laws) Bill 2000	8(21.6.00)	5.6.00		Mr Fitzgibbon	22.6.00		
Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2000	10(16.8.00)	29.6.00	5.9.00	Veterans' Affairs	17.8.00	29.8.00	12(6.9.00)