

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



**Alert Digest**

**No. 16 of 2003**

**3 December 2003**



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# Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills

## Members of the Committee

Senator T Crossin (Chair)  
Senator B Mason (Deputy Chairman)  
Senator G Barnett  
Senator D Johnston  
Senator J McLucas  
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.



## ASIO Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 27 November 2003. Portfolio: Attorney-General]

The bill amends the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979* to strengthen ASIO's information-gathering powers by:

- extending the questioning time under a warrant when interpreters are used;
- preventing unauthorised overseas travel by persons specified in warrants;
- clarifying the powers of the prescribed authority to give directions consistent with questioning warrants; and
- prohibiting, except in specified circumstances, disclosures about investigations or sensitive operational information.

The bill also amends the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* to ensure that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD reviews these amended provisions rather than the original provisions enacted by the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2003*.

### Strict liability

#### Proposed new subsection 34VAA(3)

Proposed new subsection 34VAA(3) of the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979*, to be inserted by item 10 in Part 4 of Schedule 1 to this bill, would impose on the subject of a warrant issued under section 34D of that Act, and a legal representative of such a subject, strict liability for the offence of disclosing operational information concerning that warrant.

An offence is one of strict liability where it provides for people to be punished for doing something, or failing to do something, whether or not they have a guilty intent. In other words, someone is held to be legally liable for their conduct irrespective of their moral responsibility. A person charged with a strict liability offence has recourse to a defence of mistake of fact. Where an

offence is expressed to be one of absolute liability, then this defence is unavailable.

The Committee will draw the Senate's attention to provisions which create such offences and has expressed the view that, where a bill creates such an offence, the reasons for its imposition should be set out in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Unfortunately, the Explanatory Memorandum does not explain the reasons for imposing strict criminal liability in this instance, and fails to indicate clearly the difference between strict criminal liability and other forms of liability. Paragraph 33 of the Explanatory Memorandum reads:

For disclosures by subjects of a warrant or their lawyers who are covered by the subsection, the prosecution will still need to prove that a person intended to disclose information and that the person was reckless in relation to the other elements of the offence.

Paragraph 34 then states:

For disclosures by other persons who are not covered by this subsection, the prosecution would need to prove that a person intended to disclose information and that the person was reckless in relation to the other elements of the offence.

The Committee **seeks the Attorney-General's advice** as to why it was thought necessary to impose strict criminal liability in this instance, and what effect this has on those charged with an offence under proposed new section 34VAA.

*Pending the Attorney-General's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the 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.*

## **Fisheries Legislation Amendment (High Seas Fishing Activities and Other Matters) Bill 2003**

[Introduced into the Senate on 28 November 2003. Portfolio: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry]

The bill amends the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* and the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* to give effect to Australia's obligations under the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and to strengthen the ability of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to deliver and enforce fisheries management in Commonwealth fisheries.

The bill also contains a saving provision.

### **Commencement by Proclamation Subclause 2(1), item 2**

By virtue of item 2 in the table to subclause 2(1) of this bill, the amendments proposed in Schedule 1 would commence on a single day to be fixed by Proclamation, with no limit set by the legislation within which the amendments must commence in any event.

The Committee is wary of provisions which enable legislation to commence on a date 'to be proclaimed' rather than on a determinable date. Where a bill (or part of a bill) is expressed to commence on proclamation, the date proclaimed should be no later than 6 months after the Parliament passes the relevant matter. Where the date of commencement is longer than 6 months, the Explanatory Memorandum should explain the reason for this.

In this case, the Explanatory Memorandum notes that the amendments will give effect to Australia's obligations as a party to an international agreement relating to the conservation and management of fisheries. Although it would be a good reason to delay commencement of Schedule 1 if that international agreement had not yet come into force, the Explanatory Memorandum also points out that the relevant agreement in this case "entered into force internationally ... on 24 April 2003." There consequently does not appear to be any reason for delaying commencement of Schedule 1 beyond the accepted

6 months after Assent. The Committee **seeks the Minister's advice** as to whether there are any further reasons for delaying commencement of Schedule 1.

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

**No review of decisions**  
**Proposed new section 16B**

Proposed new section 16B of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, to be inserted by item 13 of Schedule 1, would give the Australian Fisheries Management Authority a discretion to decide on the grant of a fishing concession for fishing activities on the high seas of an Australian-flagged boat. Although section 165 of the Act subjects various decisions of the Authority to merits review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, this bill does not amend section 165 to include decisions under proposed new section 16B among the list of reviewable decisions. The Committee consistently draws attention to provisions which explicitly exclude review by relevant appeal bodies or otherwise fail to provide for administrative review. The Committee therefore **seeks the Minister's advice** of the reasons for this omission.

*Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon non-reviewable decisions, in breach of principle 1(a)(iii) of the Committee's terms of reference.*

**Search without warrant**  
**Proposed new subsection 84(1AB)**

Proposed new subsection 84(1AB) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, to be inserted by item 10 of Schedule 2, would permit an officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to stop and search a vehicle or aircraft, without a warrant and despite the refusal of consent to such a search by the person in charge of the vehicle or aircraft. Unfortunately, the Explanatory Memorandum does not indicate whether the Minister considered the terms of the Committee's Report on *Entry and Search Provisions in Commonwealth Legislation* before proposing this amendment. The Committee **seeks the Minister's advice** as to whether such was the case.

*Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the 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.*

## **National Residue Survey Customs Levy Rate Correction (Lamb Exports) Bill 2003**

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 26 November 2003. Portfolio: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry]

The bill corrects a drafting error and validates levy already collected at the agreed rate of 8 cents per head set in June 1998 in respect of the export of lambs valued at more than \$75 under the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges (National Residue Survey Levies) Regulations 1998*.

### **Retrospectivity Subclause 4(1)**

Subclause 4(1) of this bill provides that it is to apply retrospectively from 1 July 2000 to 29 May 2003. Furthermore, the effect of this bill is to increase the amount of the levy on the export of lambs valued at more than \$75 from 4.7 cents per head to 8 cents per head. The Explanatory Memorandum, however, advises that the reason for the legislation is to correct an error in the drafting of the relevant Regulations, and that the Sheep Meat Council of Australia has requested the change to be made, and to have effect retrospectively.

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

## **National Residue Survey Excise Levy Rate Correction (Lamb Transactions) Bill 2003**

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 26 November 2003. Portfolio: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry]

The bill corrects a drafting error and validates levy already collected at the agreed rate of 8 cents set in June 1998 in respect of lambs with a sale price of more than \$75 under the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges (National Residue Survey Levies) Regulations 1998*.

### **Retrospectivity Subclause 4(1)**

Subclause 4(1) of this bill provides that it is to apply retrospectively from 1 July 2000 to 29 May 2003. Furthermore, the effect of this bill is to increase the amount of the levy on the sale price of lambs valued at more than \$75 from 4.7 cents per head to 8 cents per head. The Explanatory Memorandum, however, advises that the reason for the legislation is to correct an error in the drafting of the relevant Regulations, and that the Sheep Meat Council of Australia has requested the change to be made, and to have effect retrospectively.

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

## **Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Wine Grapes) Bill 2003**

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 26 November 2003. Portfolio: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry]

The bill amends the *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act 1999* to increase the maximum allowable rate, and thereby the operative rate, of the research and development component of the wine grapes levy from \$3 per tonne up to \$10 per tonne from the levy years commencing on 1 July 2004. Any proposed change to the operative rate will be actioned by regulation which would be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

The bill also contains an application provision.

*The Committee has no comment on this bill.*

## Sexuality and Gender Identity Discrimination Bill 2003

[Introduced into the Senate on 26 November 2003 by Senator Greig as a Private Senator's bill.]

The bill prohibits discrimination against sexual minorities, transgender and intersex citizens; legally recognizes same-sex couples under Commonwealth law; and provides avenues of redress for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) citizens who have been discriminated against in the public and private sector.

The bill also amends the *Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986* and contains a regulation-making power.

### Delegation of legislative power Clause 34

Clause 34 of this bill would permit the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission to delegate 'all or any of the powers conferred on the Commission' under this bill to any 'person or body of people'. 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 offices or to members of the Senior Executive Service. The Committee raised a similar concern with the delegation powers in the Aged Discrimination Bill 2003 and draws the Senator's attention to its comments in its Fifteenth Report of 2003 on this matter. Notwithstanding these comments, the Committee **seeks advice of the proposer of the bill** as to the reason for this completely unfettered discretion being vested in the Commission, and to inquire whether it would not be possible to limit the categories of persons or bodies to whom (or which) such a delegation may be made.

*Pending the Senator's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to delegate*

*legislative powers inappropriately, in breach of principle 1(a)(iv) of the Committee's terms of reference.*

## Superannuation Safety Amendment Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 27 November 2003. Portfolio: Treasury]

The bill amends the *Superannuation Industry (Supervisions) Act 1993* to:

- provide for the licensing by the trustees of superannuation entities regulated by the Australian Prudential Authority (APRA) and the registration of those entities;
- require trustee licensees to develop and maintain risk management strategies governing the trustee's operations and risk management plans for each fund under the trustee's control;
- provide for enforcement powers, including penalty provisions;
- prescribe standards applicable to the operation and amalgamation of regulated superannuation funds, approved deposit funds and pooled superannuation trusts; and
- clarify the application of the law to groups of trustees.

The bill also amends the *Retirement Savings Accounts Act 1997* and the *Superannuation Industry (Supervisions) Act 1993* to expand the reporting requirements for actuaries and auditors in respect of defined benefit funds.

The bill also contains transitional provisions.

### Commencement Subclause 2(1)

By virtue of item 3 in the table to subclause 2(1) of this bill, the amendments proposed in Part 2 of Schedule 1 would commence two years after the amendments proposed in Part 1 of Schedule 1.

The Committee takes the view that Parliament is responsible for determining when laws are to come into force. The Committee will not usually comment where the period of delayed commencement is six months or less, but where

the delay is longer, expects that the Explanatory Memorandum will comply with paragraph 18 of Drafting Direction 2002, No.2 and explain the reason for the delayed commencement being longer than six months.

In this case, the Explanatory Memorandum advises that the reason for the delayed commencement is to allow for a transitional period for current trustees of superannuation funds to comply with the requirements of the substantive parts of the bill.

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

### **Cancellation of a licence Proposed paragraphs 29G(2)(d) and (f)**

Paragraphs 29G(2)(d) and (f) provide for the cancellation of a registrable superannuation entity (RSE) licence if APRA has reason to believe that the licensee will breach a condition imposed on the licence or will fail to comply with a direction under section 29EB of the Act. It would appear from these provisions that a decision to cancel a licence may be made simply because APRA believes something is not going to happen. The Explanatory Memorandum provides limited information on the operation of these provisions. In particular, it does not indicate the basis on which APRA would make such decisions, nor whether there is a process whereby a licensee would receive prior notification of the intention to cancel the licence and be given the opportunity to remedy the alleged breach or make submissions to APRA before that licence is cancelled. The Committee notes that the decision to cancel a licence is subject to review. This process may, however, be rendered irrelevant if a licensee seeks a review but it becomes apparent that the events could not possibly happen. The Committee **seeks the Minister's advice** on the operation of these provisions.

*Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it 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.*

**Abrogation of the privilege against self-incrimination  
Proposed new sections 29JE, 29QB, 66B and 130B**

Various provisions in this bill would abrogate the privilege against self-incrimination. They are proposed new section 29JE of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*, proposed new section 29QB of the same Act, proposed new section 66B and proposed new section 130B.

The Committee does not see this privilege as absolute, recognising that the public benefit in obtaining information may outweigh the harm to civil rights. One of the factors the Committee considers is the subsequent use that may be made of any incriminating disclosures. In each case the proposed section limits the circumstances in which information so provided is admissible in evidence in proceedings against the affected person. The Committee accepts that the provisions strike a reasonable balance between the competing interests of obtaining information and protecting individual rights.

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

## PARLIAMENTARY AMENDMENTS AND THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

### AMENDMENTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (24 to 27 November 2003)

**Age Discrimination Bill 2003:** The House of Representatives amended this bill on 26 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003:** The House of Representatives amended this bill on 26 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Designs Bill 2002:** The House of Representatives amended this bill on 26 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Designs (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002:** The House of Representatives amended this bill on 26 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 5) 2003:** The House of Representatives amended this bill on 26 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Protection for Victorian Workers) Bill 2002:** The House of Representatives amended this bill on 26 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

### AMENDMENTS IN THE SENATE (24 to 28 November 2003)

**Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002:** The Senate amended this bill on 25 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003:** The Senate amended this bill on 28 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Non-Proliferation Legislation Amendment Bill 2003:** The Senate amended this bill on 28 November 2003. The amendment raised no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Spam Bill 2003:** The Senate amended this bill on 26 and 27 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

**Spam (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003:** The Senate amended this bill on 27 and 28 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

## STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF BILLS

## INDEX OF BILLS COMMENTED ON AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES SOUGHT/RECEIVED - 2003

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT RECEIVED		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
<b>Bills dealt with in 2002</b>							
<i>Charter of the United Nations Amendment Act 2002</i>	15(4.12.02)	14.11.02	5.12.02	Foreign Affairs	5.12.02	20.5.03	5(18.6.03)
Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002	7(21.8.02)	27.6.02	13.5.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	22.8.02	16.9.02	4(14.5.03)
<i>Crimes Legislation Amendment (People Smuggling, Firearms Trafficking and Other Measures) Act 2002</i>	16(11.12.02)	4.12.02	12.12.02	Justice and Customs	17.12.02	11.2.03	2(5.3.03)
<i>Criminal Code Amendment (Offences Against Australians) Act 2002</i>	15(4.12.02)	12.11.02	13.11.02	Attorney-General	5.12.02	3.2.03	1(5.2.03)
Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Roll Integrity and Other Measures) Bill 2002	3(20.3.02)	14.3.02		Special Minister of State	21.3.02	30.4.02	
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002	15(4.12.02)		19.11.02	Senator Bartlett	5.12.02	4.2.03	1(5.2.03)
Fuel Quality Standards (Renewable Content of Motor Vehicle Fuel) Amendment Bill 2002	13(13.11.02)	21.10.02	--	Mr Katter	14.11.02		DC

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review and Other Matters) Bill 2002	15(4.12.02)	27.6.02	11.11.02	Health and Ageing re Amendments	5.12.02	31.1.03	1(5.2.03)
Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2002	7(21.8.02)	27.6.02	16.6.03	Industry, Tourism and Resources	22.8.02	17.9.02	5(18.6.03)
<i>International Criminal Court Act 2002</i>	7(21.8.02)	25.6.02	26.6.02	Attorney-General	22.8.02	13.1.03	1(5.2.03)
<i>International Criminal Court (Consequential Amendments) Act 2002</i>	7(21.8.02)	25.6.02	26.6.02	Attorney-General	22.8.02	13.1.03	1(5.2.03)
Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002	3(20.3.02)	13.3.02	5.2.03	Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	21.3.02	27.5.02	2(5.3.03)
<i>Quarantine Amendment Act 2002</i>	3(20.3.02)	14.3.02	21.3.02	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	21.3.02	24.1.03	1(5.2.03)
Superannuation Legislation (Commonwealth Employment) Repeal and Amendment Bill 2002	2(13.3.02)	21.2.02	19.6.02	Finance and Administration	14.3.02 20.6.02	16.5.02 20.12.02	5(19.6.02) 1(5.2.03)
Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 8) 2002 (new citation) Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2003	16(11.12.02)	5.12.02	15.9.03	Treasury	12.12.02	30.1.03	9(10.9.03)
<i>Taxation Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy and Medicare Levy Surcharge) Act 2002</i>	5(19.6.02)	14.5.02	19.6.02	Treasurer	20.6.02	24.12.02	1(5.2.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		RECEIVED	RECEIVED	
<b>Bills introduced 2003</b>							
A Better Future for Our Kids Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	26.5.03		Ms Roxon MP	19.6.03		
Age Discrimination Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	1.12.03	Attorney-General	14.8.03	17.9.03	15(3.12.03)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002	1(5.2.03)	12.12.02	3.3.03	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	6.2.03	24.2.03	2(5.3.03)
Australian National Training Authority Amendment Bill 2003	9(20.8.03)	14.8.03	10.9.03	Education, Science and Training	21.8.03	8.9.03	9(10.9.03)
Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	15.10.03	26.6.03	Justice and Customs	14.8.03	9.9.03	9(10.9.03)
Aviation Transport Security Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)	27.3.03		Transport and Regional Services	15.5.03	20.6.03	
Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2002 [No. 2]	15(26.11.03)	5.11.03	2.12.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	27.11.03		
Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003	15(26.11.03)	6.11.03		Employment and Workplace Relations	27.11.03		
Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)	27.3.03	11.8.03	Transport and Regional Services	15.5.03	6.6.03	7(13.8.03)
Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	25.6.03		Transport and Regional Services	14.8.03	29.10.03	
Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	19.8.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	14.8.03	19.8.03	8(20.8.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2003	7(25.6.03)	19.6.03	21.8.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	26.6.03	6.8.03	9(10.9.03)
Corporate Responsibility and Employment Security Bill 2003	10(10.9.03)	18.8.03		Hon S F Crean MP	11.9.03		
Crimes (Overseas) Amendment Bill 2003	11(17.9.03)	11.09.03	18.9.03	Attorney-General	18.9.03	7.10.03	11(8.10.03)
Criminal Code Amendment ( Hamas and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba) Bill 2003	14(7.11.03)	5.11.03	7.11.03	Attorney-General	7.11.03		15(3.12.03)
Criminal Code Amendment (Hezbollah External Terrorist Organisation) Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	2.6.03		Hon S F Crean MP	19.6.03		
Criminal Code Amendment (Hizballah) Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	29.5.03	16.6.03	Attorney-General	19.6.03	29.10.03	13(7.11.03)
Criminal Code Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002	1(5.2.03)	12.12.02	13.5.03	Attorney-General	6.2.03	7.5.03	4(14.5.03)
Customs Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003	6(18.6.03)	15.5.03	16.6.03	Justice and Customs	19.6.03	24.6.03	6(25.6.03)
Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003	2(5.3.03)	12.2.03	19.3.03	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	6.3.03	9.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)		27.3.03	Senator Murray		28.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003	2(5.3.03)	13.2.03	26.3.03	Treasurer	6.3.03	24.3.03	3(26.3.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		RECEIVED	RECEIVED	
Family and Community Services and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2003 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	18.9.03	8.10.03	Family and Community Services	9.10.03	14.10.03	12(15.10.03)
Family Law Amendment Bill 2003	2(5.3.03)	12.2.03	20.8.03	Attorney-General	6.3.03 21.8.03	20.7.03 11.9.03	8(20.8.03) 10(17.9.03)
Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	24.11.03	Treasurer	14.8.03	12.9.03	14(26.11.03)
Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	17.9.03	27.10.03	Education, Science and Training	9.10.03	21.11.03	14(26.11.03)
Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003	3(19.3.03)		6.3.03	Senator Conroy	27.3.03		
Legislative Instruments Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	9.9.03	Attorney-General	14.8.03	24.9.03	11(8.10.03)
Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	18.9.03	9.10.03	Transport and Regional Services	9.10.03	20.11.03	14(26.11.03)
Migration Legislation Amendment (Identification and Authentication) Bill 2003	9(20.8.03)	26.6.03	7.10.03	Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	21.8.03		
National Animal Welfare Bill 2003	9(20.8.03)		11.8.03	Senator Bartlett	21.8.03	10.9.03	10(17.9.03)
National Transport Commission Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	4.6.03	14.8.03	Transport and Regional Services	19.6.03	27.6.03	8(20.8.03)
Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	17.9.03	14.10.03	Industry, Tourism and Resources	9.10.03	14.10.03	12(15.10.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST		INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT		REPORT NUMBER
			HOUSE	SENATE		RECEIVED		
Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Legislation Amendment Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	5.6.03	24.11.03		Environment and Heritage	19.6.03	4.8.03	14(26.11.03)
Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) Bill 2003	3(19.3.03)	5.3.03	6.3.03		Industry, Tourism and Resources	27.3.03	16.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003	3(19.3.03)	5.3.03	6.3.03		Industry, Tourism and Resources	27.3.03	16.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Private Health Insurance (Reinsurance Trust Fund Levy) Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)	26.3.03	23.6.03		Health and Ageing	15.5.03	18.6.03) 24.6.03)	6(25.6.03)
Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	15.9.03		Education, Science and Training	14.8.03	15.9.03	10(17.9.03)
Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 2003	2(5.3.03)	13.2.03	19.3.03		Treasurer	6.3.03	18.3.03	3(26.3.03)
Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003	7(25.6.03)		18.6.03		Senator Stott Despoja	26.6.03	25.7.03 9.10.03	7(13.8.03) 12(15.10.03)
Trade Practices Amendment (Public Liability Insurance) Bill 2003	10(10.9.03)	18.8.03			Mr A Griffin MP	11.9.03		

