

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 5 of 2008

18 June 2008

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Kerry O'Brien (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Stephen Parry (Opposition Whip)

Senator Andrew Bartlett (Australian Democrats Whip)

Senator Fiona Nash (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (The Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Steve Fielding (The Family First Whip)

Senator Judith Adams

Senator the Hon. Chris Ellison

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Senator Ruth Webber

Secretary: Richard Pye
 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 5 OF 2008

1. The committee met in private session on Tuesday, 17 June 2008 at 12.49 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
 - (a) the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008 be ***referred immediately*** to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (b) the Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2008 be ***referred immediately*** to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008;
 - (c) the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008 be ***referred immediately*** to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 14 October 2008 (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (d) the Tax Laws Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2008 be ***referred immediately*** to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008; and
 - (e) the Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of grocery prices) Bill 2008 be ***referred immediately*** to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 2 September 2008 (see appendix 3 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee resolved to recommend—That the following bills ***not*** be referred to committees:
 - Commonwealth Securities and Investment Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
 - Crimes Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Matters) Bill 2008
 - Customs Tariff Amendment (Tobacco Content) Bill 2008
 - Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme Bill 2008
 - Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - Dental Benefits Bill 2008
 - Dental Benefits (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - Evidence Amendment Bill 2008
 - Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008
 - Farm Household Support Amendment (Additional Drought Assistance Measures) Bill 2008

- First Home Saver Accounts Bill 2008
- First Home Saver Accounts (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
- Health Care (Appropriation) Amendment Bill 2008
- Higher Education Support Amendment (2008 Budget Measures) Bill 2008
- Income Tax (First Home Saver Accounts Misuse Tax) Bill 2008
- Income Tax (Managed Investment Trust Transitional) Bill 2008
- Income Tax (Managed Investment Trust Withholding Tax) Bill 2008
- Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
- Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment (2008 Budget Measures) Bill 2008
- Judiciary Amendment Bill 2008
- Law Officers Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
- National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2008
- Parliamentary (Judicial Misbehaviour or Incapacity) Commission Bill 2007 [2008]
- Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
- Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Employment Entry Payment) Bill 2008
- Tax Laws Amendment (Election Commitments No. 1) Bill 2008
- Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy and Medicare Levy Surcharge) Bill 2008

The committee recommends accordingly.

4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008
 - Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008
 - Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008
 - Excise Tariff Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008
 - National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008
 - National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008
 - Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [2008]
 - Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008

- Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008
- Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]

(Kerry O'Brien)

Chair

18 June 2008

APPENDIX 1

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008) budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

The effect of changes in schedule 6 to the income definition for Family Tax Benefit A and B and the Child Care Benefit to include the reportable fringe benefit total of an employee. This change will particularly affect employees working for public benevolent institutions.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

The Charities Tax Advisory Service
Charity organisations such as
 St Vincent de Paul
 Red Cross
 The Salvation Army
Australian Council of Social Services
Australian Services Union
Catholic Health Australia
St John Ambulance Australia

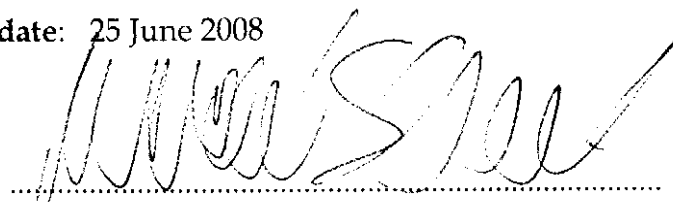
Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Community Affairs

Possible hearing date(s): 20 June 2008

Possible reporting date: 25 June 2008

(signed)



Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

Rachel Siewert

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill:

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

This Bill has significant implications the renewable energy sector, existing electricity generators and retailers, and the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Existing and potential wind, solar PV, solar thermal, geothermal, biomass and wave generators.

Existing electricity generators, electricity retailers and the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator.

Energy sector experts/academics, including international experts familiar with feed-in legislation abroad.

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Environment, Communication and the Arts

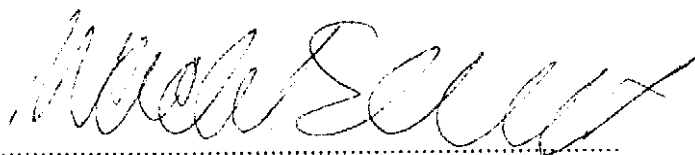
Possible hearing date(s):

August 2008

Possible reporting date:

Early October

(signed)



Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member



SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

APPENDIX 3

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of grocery prices) Bill 2008

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Family First introduced the *Unit Pricing (Easy Comparison of Grocery Prices) Bill 2008* to save families money by making it mandatory for supermarkets to display a per unit price, such as per kilogram or per litre, on all grocery items sold.

A recent Family First survey uncovered that in one supermarket:

- a Pauls 3 litre milk container was actually more expensive per litre than a Pauls 2 litre milk container;
- a Coles 1kg tin of fruit salad was 32% more expensive per kg than the smaller 825g tin; and,
- a 600g jar of Vegemite costs 50% more per kilogram than the 150g jar.

The cost of food is a big part of every family's budget and unit pricing will help Australians save money at the checkout. By making it mandatory for supermarkets to display unit pricing on grocery items it will provide families with fair and transparent pricing so they can get the best value for their dollar. It is often hard to calculate which items are cheapest with different sizing making quick and easy comparison difficult on a busy shopping day. The bill sets out a detailed national unit pricing scheme. An inquiry would allow feedback from families, community groups and industry.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Consumer Action Law Centre	Coles
Choice	Aldi
Queensland Consumers Association	Australian Retailers Association
Woolworths	National Assoc of Retail Grocers (NARGA)
and various others such as welfare, consumer and community advocate groups	

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Economics Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

18 and 19 August 2008

Possible reporting date:

Tuesday, 2 September 2008

(signed)

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Senator Steve Fielding
Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

**Amendment to the motion for adoption of the
Selection of Bills Committee report**

(to be moved by leave by Senator Parry)

(add a bill)

At the end of the motion, add:

“and that the Evidence Amendment Bill 2008 be referred immediately to the
Legal and Constitutional Committee for inquiry and report not before 25 September
2008”

Opposition will
S. Parry