

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 17 of 2009

19 November 2009

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Kerry O'Brien (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Stephen Parry (Opposition Whip)

Senator John Williams (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (The Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Steve Fielding (The Family First Party Whip)

Senator Judith Adams

Senator David Bushby

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Senator Anne McEwen

Secretary: Maureen Weeks
 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 17 OF 2009

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 18 November 2009 at 7.18 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
 - (a) the Poker Machine (Reduced Losses—Interim Measures) Bill 2009 and the Protecting Problem Gamblers Bill 2009 be *referred immediately* to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 18 March 2010 (see appendices 1 and 2 for statements of reasons for referral); and
 - (b) the *provisions* of the Trade Practices Amendment (Infrastructure Access) Bill 2009 be *referred immediately* to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 9 March 2010 (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:
 - ACIS Administration Amendment (Application) Bill 2009
 - Appropriation (Water Entitlements and Home Insulation) Bill 2009-2010
 - Appropriation (Water Entitlements) Bill 2009-2010
 - Australian Centre for Renewable Energy Bill 2009
 - Aviation Transport Security Amendment (2009 Measures No. 2) Bill 2009
 - Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Amendment Bill 2009
 - National Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill 2009.

The committee recommends accordingly.

4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
 - Britt Laphorne Bill 2009
 - Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Restoration of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009
 - Keeping Jobs from Going Offshore (Protection of Personal Information) Bill 2009
 - Plain Tobacco Packaging (Removing Branding from Cigarette Packs) Bill 2009.

(Kerry O'Brien)

Chair

19 November 2009

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill:

Poker Machine (reduced Losses - Interim Measures) Bill 2009

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

In undertaking the inquiry, the Committee should consider:

- 1) how targeted changes to the practical operation of poker machines, such as reducing the maximum bet to \$1 and thereby reducing the maximum loss in a single hour to \$120, can cut rates of excessive gambling;
- 2) that limiting users to \$20 in total credits at any one time and \$20 banknote denominations will assist problem gamblers to reduce the total amount they are able to lose at any one time; and,
- 3) that cutting rates of excessive gambling is a very important part of addressing the issue of problem gambling and allowing people to play the pokies with reduced harm.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Dr Charles Livingstone
Dr Richard Woolley
Paul Bendat, PokieAct.org.au
Responsible Gaming Networks
Victorian InterChurch Gambling Taskforce
Independent Gambling Authority (SA)
Gambling Impact Society NSW

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs (Legislation)

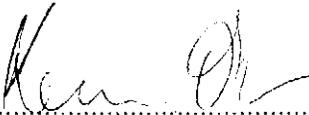
Possible hearing date(s):

February/March

Possible reporting date:

Thursday 18 March 2010

(signed)


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Whip/ Selection of Bills Committee member

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill:

Protecting Problem Gamblers Bill 2009

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Gambling losses from poker machines have enormous social costs on society. It is important to introduce harm minimisation measures.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Victorian InterChurch Gambling Taskforce, FamilyVoice Australia, Gambling Impact Society, Chrysalis Insight Inc, Social Responsibilities Committee - Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Anglicare Victoria, Relationships Australia - Tasmania, Social Issues Executive of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney, Duty of Care, UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

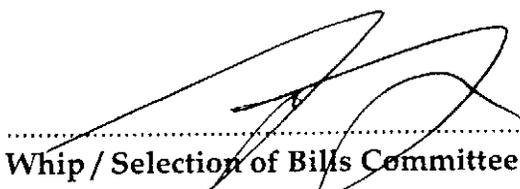
Possible hearing date(s):

TBA

Possible reporting date:

18 March 2010

(signed)


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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**Name of bill:**

The Trade Practices Amendment (Infrastructure Access) Bill 2009 (the Bill).

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

To enable further public consultation on proposed reforms effecting the regulation of third party access to nationally significant infrastructure.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

It is anticipated that submissions of evidence will be provided from:

- infrastructure providers;
- infrastructure users;
- Commonwealth, State and Territory infrastructure access regulators and merit review bodies;
- Commonwealth, State and Territory government departments; and
- consultants and academics with an interest in infrastructure and access regulation.

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

It is recommended that the Bill be referred to the Economics Legislation Committee.

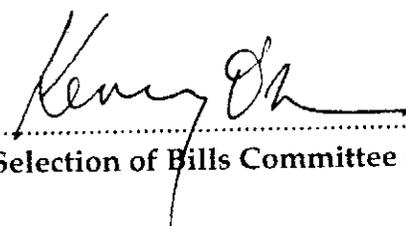
Possible hearing date(s):

It is recommended that hearings be conducted in February and March 2010.

Possible reporting date:

It is recommended that the final reporting date be 9 March 2010. This date would allow for effective public consultation and enable the finalised Bill to be implemented in a timely manner.

(signed)


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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member