

**Committee-related
activity in the chamber**

Details of Reports tabled in the Senate and other related matters

24 Individual/Packages of Bills referred through Selection of Bills Committee:

14 February 2008

Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 18 June 2008

12 March 2008

Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 1 May 2008

Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 30 May 2008.

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 30 May 2008

Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 25 June 2008

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 1 May 2008

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008 to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 16 June 2008

19 March 2008

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 16 September 2008.

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 7 May 2008.

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 30 April 2008.

Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008 to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 1 May 2008.

14 May 2008

Reserve Bank Amendment (Enhanced Independence) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 31 May 2008.

18 June 2008

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008 to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008.

Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2008 to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008.

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008 to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 14 October 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008.

Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of grocery prices) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 2 September 2008.

Evidence Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report not before 25 September 2008.

25 June 2008

Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions], Offshore Petroleum (Annual Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions], Offshore Petroleum (Registration Fees) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions], and Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report on 16 October 2008.

Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report on 10 November 2008.

26 June 2008

Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report on 27 August 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 4) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report on 27 August 2008.

Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report on 27 August 2008.

Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report on 27 August 2008.

11 Packages of Bills referred by the Senate

14 February 2008

Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 [Provisions] to the Education, Employment & Workplace Relations Committee for inquiry and report by 28 April 2008.

12 March 2008

Exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for inquiry and report by 11 April 2008.

20 March 2008

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008 to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 7 May 2008.

18 June 2008

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008 to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report not before 18 August 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 26 August 2008.

Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008, A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008, A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008 and A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 26 August 2008.

Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and the Excise Tariff Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 26 August 2008.

National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and the National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 29 September 2008.

Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008 and any related bills introduced to give effect to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's report *Same Sex: Same Entitlements* to the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 30 September 2008 or after the consideration of any related bills, whichever is the sooner.

Provisions of Schedules 1 and 2 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill 2008 to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 18 August 2008.

25 June 2008

Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No.2] and related matters to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 15 August 2008.

22 References referred by the Senate

14 February 2008

Cost of Living Pressures on Older Australians (re-referred) to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 20 March 2008.

Mental Health Services in Australia (re-referred) to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 26 June 2008.

Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations (re-referred) to the Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade Committee for inquiry and report by 15 May 2008.

Climate change and the Australian agricultural sector (re-referred) to the Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for inquiry and report by 4 September 2008.

12 March 2008

Sexualisation of children in the media to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 23 June 2008.

19 March 2008

Meat marketing to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for inquiry and report by 4 September 2008.

Australia's mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance Scheme to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by May 2008.

Australia's space science and industry sector to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by October 2008, with an interim report by 23 June 2008.

20 March 2008

Effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice operating within the radio and television industry to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 9 June 2008.

Waste management in Australia, including consideration of the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008 to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by August 2008.

14 May 2008

Lobbying Code of Conduct to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for inquiry and report by 26 August 2008.

15 May 2008

Special Disability Trusts to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 18 September 2008.

Effectiveness of proposed changes to alcohol excise regime to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008.

17 June 2008

Petrol sniffing and substance abuse in central Australia to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 16 October 2008.

18 June 2008

Disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by last sitting day of November 2008.

Effectiveness of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and other programs in protecting threatened species and ecological communities to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 27 November 2008.

24 June 2008

Economic and security challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the island states of the southwest Pacific to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee for inquiry and report by 30 May 2009.

Current level of academic freedom in school and higher education to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee for inquiry and report by 11 November 2008.

26 June 2008

Developing Australia's research and training capacity in the area of climate change to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee for inquiry and report by 20 March 2009.

Effectiveness of the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 12 November 2008.

Natural resource management and conservation challenges to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for inquiry and report by 27 November 2008.

The implementation, operation and administration of the legislation underpinning Carbon Sink Forests, and any related matter to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for inquiry and report by 22 August 2008.

Reports tabled

During the reporting period, Senate Standing Committees tabled 16 Bills reports (plus 7 reports that did not discharge a reference) and 4 references reports (plus 4 reports that did not discharge a reference). The details are as follows:

Committee	Report	Tabled
ECO	*Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2007—Final Interim report (presented out of session on 11.02.08)	12.02.08
ECO	*National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007—Final Interim report (presented out of session on 11.02.08)	12.02.08
CA	^Report on the references of the 41 st Parliament (re-adoption of inquiries)	14.02.08
FADT	^Report on the references of the 41 st Parliament (re-adoption of inquiries)	14.02.08
RRAT	^Report on the references of the 41 st Parliament (re-adoption of inquiries)	14.02.08
EEWR	Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 [Provisions]	17.03.08
CA	A decent quality of life: Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians	20.03.08
RRAT	*Interim Report—Exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 24.04.08)	13.05.08
ECA	Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented out of session on 30.04.08)	13.05.08
RRAT	Final Report—Exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 30.04.08)	13.05.08

ECO	Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented out of session on 01.05.08)	13.05.08
ECO	*Interim Report—Australia's Mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance Scheme (presented out of session on 01.05.08)	13.05.08
LC	*Interim Report—Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 01.05.08)	13.05.08
LC	Final Report—Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 06.05.08)	13.05.08
ECA	*Interim Report—Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 07.05.08)	13.05.08
CA	*Interim Report—Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented out of session on 07.05.08)	13.05.08
ECA	Final Report—Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 09.05.08)	13.05.08
CA	Final Report – Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 [Provisions]	15.05.08
ECO	*Interim Report – Reserve Bank Amendment (Enhanced Independence) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented out of session on 30.05.08)	16.06.08
ECO	National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008] and the Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 (presented out of session on 30.05.08)	16.06.08
ECA	*Interim Report – Effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice (presented out of session on 06.06.08)	16.06.08

ECO	Final Report – Reserve Bank Amendment (Enhanced Independence) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (presented out of session on 11.06.08)	16.06.08
LC	Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008	16.06.08
CA	Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]	18.06.08
CA	*Interim Report – Mental Health Services in Australia	19.06.08
ECA	Final Report – Effectiveness of the Broadcasting Codes of Practice	19.06.08
ECO	*Interim Report – Australia's Space Science and Industry Sector	23.06.08
CA	Ready-to-Drink Alcohol Beverages	24.06.08
FPA	Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008	24.06.08
LC	Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2008	24.06.08
ECO	Tax Laws Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2008	24.06.08
CA	A matter relating to the PET review of 2000	26.6.08
ECA	Sexualisation of children in the contemporary media	26.6.08
LC	Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008	26.6.08

*Reports that did not discharge a reference

^ Reports that re-referred inquiries

Estimates reports:

During the reporting period, Senate Standing Committees tabled 16 reports.

Reports on Annual Reports:

During the reporting period, Senate Standing Committees tabled 8 reports.

Joint Statutory/Select Committees:

During the reporting period, 2 reports (plus 2 reports that did not discharge a reference) were tabled by the Joint Statutory/Select Committees.

Committee	Report	Tabled
HSAF (Select)	A good house is hard to find: Housing Affordability in Australia	16.06.08
ACLEI (Joint)	* Examination of the Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner 2006–07	18.06.08
ACC (Joint)	* Examination of the Australian Crime Commission Annual Report 2006–07	18.06.08
CFS (Joint)	Better Shareholders—Better Company: Shareholder Engagement and Participation in Australia	24.06.08

** reports that did not discharge a reference*

Government Responses to Committee Reports

The following table shows 1 Government response to a Senate Committee Report:

Government Response	Date	Committee
Workplace Agreements (report tabled 31 October 2005)	23.06.08	EEWR

<i>Legislation</i>	<i>LLP/NAT. ALP</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>AG</i>	<i>FFP</i>	
Additional Comments	6	3	5	2	
Dissenting Reports	4	1		1	
Minority Reports	2	2	3		
Report	1				
Additional Remarks		2			
Opposition Report					
Comments					
Supplementary Comments					
Supplementary Report		1			
Supplementary Remarks					
Statement	1	2	1	1	1
Additional Comments & Points of Dissent					

Extension of Time to present Reports

During the reporting period, 15 extensions of time: 3 under a week; 2 over a week; and 10 over a month—were granted to Committees administered by the Senate Committee Office to present reports.

Leave to Meet while the Senate is in session

During the reporting period, Senate Committees were granted leave to meet while the Senate was in session on 6 occasions.

Membership of Committees

During the reporting period, there were 915 membership changes of Committees.

Appointment of Committees

The Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries was appointed on 14 February 2008.

The Select Committee on State Government Financial Management was appointed on 14 February 2008.

The Select Committee on Housing Affordability in Australia was appointed on 14 February 2008.

The Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities was appointed 19 March 2008.

The Select Committee on Fuel and Energy was appointed on 25 June 2008.

The Select Committee on National Broadband Network was appointed on 25 June 2008.

Change of Committee Name

The Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations & Education was changed to the Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment & Workplace Relations on 13 February 2008.

The Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts was changed to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications & the Arts on 13 February 2008.

