

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 6 of 2010

18 March 2010

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 Mitch Fifield

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Senator Anne McEwen

Secretary: Maureen Weeks
 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 6 OF 2010

1. The committee met in private session on Thursday, 18 March 2010 at 12.02 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
 - (a) the *provisions* of the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2010 be *referred immediately* to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 12 May 2010 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (b) the *provisions* of the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Bill 2010 be *referred immediately* to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 11 May 2010 (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (c) the *provisions* of the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Bill 2010 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 15 June 2010 (see appendix 3 for a statement of reasons for referral); and
 - (d) the *provisions* of the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Fibre Deployment) Bill 2010 be *referred immediately* to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 12 May 2010 (see appendix 4 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee resolved to recommend—That the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
 - Insurance Contracts Amendment Bill 2010
 - Social Security and Indigenous Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2010
 - Tax Laws Amendment (2010 GST Administration Measures No. 2) Bill 2010.

The committee recommends accordingly.

4. The committee considered the Territories Law Reform Bill 2010 and noted that, on 18 March 2010, the Senate had agreed to refer the provisions of the bill to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories for inquiry and report.

5. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
- Defence Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2010
 - Keeping Jobs from Going Offshore (Protection of Personal Information) Bill 2009
 - Water (Crisis Powers and Floodwater Diversion) Bill 2010.

(Kerry O'Brien)

Chair

18 March 2010

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2010

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

1. The Government's solution to digital television blackspots is of significant importance to viewers, particularly in regional, rural and remote Australia. Local councils who to date have run self-help re-transmission facilities will be keenly interested in the solution.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

1. Residents in regional and rural Australia;
2. Local councils and regional community groups who currently operate self-help retransmission services;
3. Broadcasters;
4. Satellite service providers;
5. Television reception equipment installers (eg: antenna technicians and satellite dish installers).

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Environment, Communications and the Arts

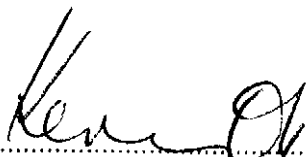
Possible hearing date(s):

Throughout April

Possible reporting date:

12 May

(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: Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Bill 2010

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Contention over regulatory burden and changes in approach since the original scheme was announced by the government. Assumptions in regulation impact assessment have been widely challenged.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

The Property Council, Green Building Council of Australia, Commercial Building Owners and Operators, Property Trusts, Construction Industry Experts, Energy Efficiency Council.

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee

Possible hearing date(s): 12 April 2010

Possible reporting date: 11 May 2010

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(signed)

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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: National Security Amendment Bill

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

The government's 448 page complex exposure draft of this legislation provoked expert response. A thorough examination is required of what adjustments have been made. The process of reviewing and amending these laws needs to contrast starkly with the undue haste with which the anti-terrorism laws were passed in the highly politically charged post-September 11 environment. An inquiry into the changes offers an opportunity examine if the laws remain necessary, effective and proportional to the extant threat.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Law Council of Australia
Julian Burnside, Liberty Victoria
Phil Lynch, Director, Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd
Dr Patrick Emerton, Monash University Law School
Justice John Dowd, President, Australian chapter of the Int'l Commission of Jurists
Assoc. Professor Jude McCulloch, Castan Centre for Human Rights Law,
Rob Stary & Associates
Gilbert and Tobin Centre of Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of NSW
Law Society of New South Wales
Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network
Sydney Centre for International Law, Faculty of Law, Sydney University
Australian Lawyers Alliance
Australian Human Rights Commission
Civil Liberties Australia

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Legal and Constitutional

Possible hearing date(s): Late May

Possible reporting date: 24 June

(signed)


Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Fibre Deployment) Bill 2010

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

1. The Government announced last April its commitment to ensuring new premises were fitted with superfast broadband infrastructure.
2. This Bill implements the Government's policy.
3. It will be of considerable interest to developers, state & territory governments, local councils and telecommunications companies.
4. The Government welcomes Senate scrutiny of the Bill prior to the Budget sittings.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

- Telecommunications carriers
- Developers and property groups
- State, Territory and Local governments

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Environment, Communications and the Arts

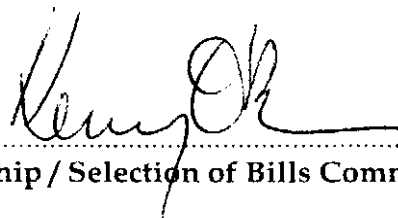
Possible hearing date(s):

Throughout April

Possible reporting date:

12 May

(signed)



Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member