

Senate Daily Summary

Monday 9 December 2002

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.25pm

Hours of meeting

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer gave [notice of a motion](#) to vary the hours of meeting of the Senate for 10 and 11 December 2002

Legislation

[For full text of bills and other associated documents click here](#) 

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Medical Indemnity Bill 2002
- Medical Indemnity (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002
- Medical Indemnity (Enhanced UMP Indemnity) Contribution Bill 2002
- Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Bill 2002
- Taxation Laws Amendment (Venture Capital) Bill 2002
- Venture Capital Bill 2002

The following bill was considered

- Medical Indemnity Bill 2002 and three related bills—second reading debate began

The following bill was passed

With amendments

- Telecommunications Competition Bill 2002—16 Government amendments agreed to, 1 Part and 1 Schedule omitted, 5 Australian Democrat amendments agreed to, and 6 Opposition amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)]

Bill negatived at second reading

- Migration Legislation Amendment (Further Border Protection Measures) Bill 2002 [The Senate has rejected this bill and consideration will not continue at present]



The following message from the House of Representatives was reported

- Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment [The bill will now be assented to]

The following message from the House of Representatives was considered

- Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment Bill 2002–The [message reported](#) that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the amendments made by the Senate. [The Senate](#) did not insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Taxation Laws Amendment (Venture Capital) Bill 2002
- Venture Capital Bill 2002

Notice of motion given to exempt bills

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer gave [notice of a motion](#) to exempt a number of bills from certain provisions of standing order 111 [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

Bills assented to

[Assent](#) to several bills was reported in the Senate

Proclamation

[A proclamation](#) by the Governor-General was tabled announcing that Schedule 1 of the *Space Activities Amendment Act 2002* would commence on 1 December 2002

See the **Committees** section for details of reports relating to legislation

Delegated legislation

For a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes) click here [▶](#)

Notice of motion withdrawn

A notice of motion to disallow the Public Service Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 214 and made under the *Public Service Act 1999* was withdrawn

See the **Documents** section for details of instruments tabled

Committees

For scheduled public committee hearings click here [▶](#)

For committee reports click here [▶](#)

Reports tabled

- Review of Australia's relations with the United Nations–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of the World Trade Organisation–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee

Government responses to committee reports tabled

- Administration by the Department of Transport and Regional Services of Australian motor vehicle standards under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* and regulations—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- 2001 Review of Migration Regulation 4.31B—Migration Joint Committee
- Visits to immigration detention centres—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—Senator Moore to replace Senator Wong for the committee's inquiry into the Australian telecommunications network

Message from the House of Representatives reported

A message from the House of Representatives advised that Ms Ley would replace Ms Panopoulos on the Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Joint Committee, and Ms Panopoulos would replace Ms Ley on the Electoral Matters Joint Committee

Notices of motion given

To extend reporting deadlines

- Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002—Economics Legislation Committee—12 December 2002
- Recruitment and training in the Australian Public Service—Finance and Public Administration References Committee—27 March 2003
- Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—11 December 2002

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to a motion without debate about [photovoltaic energy](#)—moved by Senator Allison

Notices of motion

- [To establish](#) an independent judicial inquiry into all aspects of the People Smuggling Disruption Program and calling on the government to implement all recommendations contained in the Certain Maritime Incident Select Committee report—moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the Leader of the Australian Democrats and Senators Harradine, Murphy, Brown and Nettle
- [For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here](#) 

Orders for the production of documents

Notices of motion given

- The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate gave a notice of motion to require the tabling of all documents relating to inquiries undertaken by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet into the possible conflict of interest between the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer and the commercial activities of Endispute Pty Ltd (no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 12 December 2002)
- The Leader of the Australian Democrats gave notice of a motion to require the tabling of the agreement signed by the Commonwealth for the Walla Weir Irrigation Project and any materials relating to compliance with the terms of the agreement (no later than 4pm on 12 December 2002)
- The Leader of the Australian Democrats gave notice of a motion to require the tabling of all materials prepared by Geoscience Australia in response to the proposal by TGS-NOPEC to conduct seismic testing in the Townsville Trough (no later than 4pm on 12 December 2002)

Document tabled

- The Acting Deputy President tabled a letter from the Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in response to the Senate [resolution](#) of 12 November 2002 concerning the expected date of the ACCC's report to the Senate on tobacco and health

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

- [Senator Sherry asked](#) the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer for an explanation of answers not being provided to nine questions about various matters. The [Minister indicated](#) that answers would be provided. The Senate [took note](#) of the minister's response.
- [Senator Bishop asked](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs for an explanation of answers not being provided to six questions about various matters. [The Minister indicated](#) that answers would be provided. The Senate [took note](#) of the minister's response.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- East Timor asylum seekers—Letter forwarding a copy of the text of a resolution passed by the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and members' speeches made during the debate
- Report of the Australian delegation to the 171st session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Council, Geneva, 23 to 27 September 2002
- Report of the delegation to the 48th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, Namibia, 4 to 13 September 2002

Petitions

[2 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
Enquiries, comments and suggestions: phone 6277 3209
e-mail: sue.blunden@aph.gov.au

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