

# Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 11 December 2002

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.59pm

## Legislation

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

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2002
- Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Whistleblowers) Bill 2002 [Private senator's bill]
- Taxation Laws Amendment (Earlier Access to Farm Management Deposits) Bill 2002

### The following bill was considered

- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002—committee of the whole continued (19 Opposition [amendments agreed to](#), 2 sections omitted, 8 Government amendments agreed to, 1 Australian Democrat amendment agreed to, 7 Opposition and 3 Australian Democrat amendments to 1 of the Opposition [amendments to be determined](#))

### No bills were passed

### The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

- Taxation Laws Amendment (Structured Settlements and Structured Orders) Bill 2002—[The message](#) reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to 62 and disagreed to 2 of the [amendments made](#) by the Senate. The Senate will consider the amendments disagreed to by the House on a future sitting day.
- Telecommunications Competition Bill 2002—The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the [amendments made](#) by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]

### Bill restored to the Notice Paper

- Uranium Mining in or near Australian World Heritage Properties (Prohibition) Bill 1998 [to enable consideration to be resumed at the stage reached in the last session of Parliament]



### Bill discharged from the *Notice Paper*

- ❑ Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2001 [2002] [Private senator's bill. This bill will now not proceed]

### Bill exempted from the cut-off order [To enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Special Benefit Activity Test) Bill 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 [▶](#)

### Regulations not disallowed

The Senate debated motions to disallow the following delegated legislation:

- ❑ Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 6), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 293 and made under the *Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act 1999*
- ❑ Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 10), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 294 and made under the *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act 1999*
- ❑ Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 7), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 295 and made under the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act 1991*

The Senate agreed **not to disallow** the regulations

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

## Committees

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

For committee reports click here [▶](#)

### Estimates

#### *Estimates hearings 2003*

The Senate agreed to a [schedule of estimates hearings](#) by legislation committees and reporting dates for additional estimates 2002-03 and Budget estimates 2003-04

#### *Additional information tabled*

Additional information received by the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee relating to Budget estimates for 2002-03 was tabled (vol. 3)

### Reports tabled

- ❑ Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002–Economics Legislation Committee
- ❑ National Crime Authority Annual Report 2000-01–National Crime Authority Joint Committee
- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee–Alert Digest [No. 16](#) of 2002 and [16th report](#) of 2002 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- ❑ Selection of Bills Committee–[Report No. 14](#) of 2002 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

### **Government response to President's report tabled**

- Response to schedule of government responses outstanding to reports tabled by the President on 27 June 2002

### **Powers and proceedings of a committee**

The Senate agreed that, with effect from 1 January 2003, matters relating to the powers of the Australian Crime Commission Joint Committee shall be as set out in the [resolution of 14 February 2002](#) relating to the powers and proceedings of the National Crime Authority Joint Committee

### **New inquiries**

#### *Notices of motion withdrawn*

- Superannuation Select Committee—[Notices by Senators](#) Watson and Sherry proposing the reference of matters to the committee were withdrawn

*See the **Reports tabled** section (Selection of Bills Committee Report) for details of bills referred to committees*

### **Reporting dates**

The Senate agreed to the following extensions of time for committees to report:

- Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J*—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—last sitting day in June 2003
- Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—last sitting day in June 2003
- Import risk assessment on New Zealand apples—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—last sitting day in June 2003
- Refusal of the Government to respond to the order of the Senate of 21 August 2002 for the production of documents relating to financial information concerning higher education institutions—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—6 March 2003
- Small business employment—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—6 February 2003
- Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—4 February 2003

### **Notices of motion given**

#### *To refer matters to committees*

- Planning for retirement, and [related matters](#)—Superannuation Select Committee—to report by the last sitting day in June 2003
- The [relevant issues](#) involved in the negotiation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) in the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organisation; and the issues for Australia in the negotiation of a free trade agreement with the United States of America—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 27 November 2003
- The structure and distributive effects of the Australian taxation system, and [related matters](#)—Economics References Committee—to report by the last sitting day in June 2004

## Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- ❑ [Abu Quessai](#) and people smuggling—moved by Senator Collins on behalf of all Opposition senators, the Leader of the Australian Democrats on behalf of all Australian Democrat senators and Senators Brown, Harradine, Lees, Murphy, and Nettle. Senator Collins and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer made statements relating to the motion.
- ❑ [Australian film Rabbit-Proof Fence](#)—moved by Senator Faulkner
- ❑ [Ceasefire agreement](#) signed by Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- ❑ [East Timorese asylum seekers living in Darwin](#)—Senator Brown
- ❑ [Swimming Australia's new member protection policy](#)—moved by Senator Allison

## Motions defeated

The following motions were defeated:

- ❑ [Albury bypass](#)—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Restriction of vessels entering the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park region](#)—moved by Senator Bartlett
- ❑ [Tibetan activists](#), Trulku Tenzin Delek and Lobsang Dhondup—moved by Senator Brown

## Notices of motion

[For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here](#) 

## Orders for the production of documents

### *Motions agreed to*

- ❑ The Senate [noted](#) the passage of time since its [order for documents](#) on 16 October 2002 relating to the Government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy, and subsequent commitments in the Senate that the Government would respond to the order, and called on the Government to comply with the order (no later than 5pm on 11 December 2002)—moved by Senator O'Brien
- ❑ The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation to table all documents relating to answers to [question on notice no. 404](#) relating to logging on Interlaken Road, Tasmania (no later than noon on 12 December 2002)—moved by Senator Brown

### *Notices of motion given*

- ❑ To require the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and representing the Prime Minister to table [certain correspondence](#) conducted in the period June 2001 to the present, relating to GM Food in the context of the current free trade agreement negotiations with the United States (no later than 4pm on 12 December 2002)—by Senator Stott Despoja

- ❑ [To require](#) the Minister for Science to table all advice or comment given to the Government, including the Prime Minister, by the Chief Scientist or his office regarding funding to scientific organisations since January 1999 (no later than 4 February 2003)—by Senator Brown

## Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General—Audit Report No. 21 of 2002-03—Performance information in the Australian Health Care Agreements: Department of Health and Ageing
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)

## Petitions

[5 petitions](#) were received

## Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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