

Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 December
2002

The Senate met from 9.30am Thursday until 10.23am Friday

The Senate has now completed its Spring sittings and will commence Summer sittings on [4 February 2003](#)

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Crimes Legislation Amendment (People Smuggling, Firearms Trafficking and Other Measures) Bill 2002
- ❑ National Environment Protection Council Amendment Bill 2002
- ❑ Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2002
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Termination) Bill 2002

The following bills were passed

Without amendments

[These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Aviation Legislation Amendment Bill 2002
- ❑ Crimes Legislation Amendment (People Smuggling, Firearms Trafficking and Other Measures) Bill 2002
- ❑ Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002
- ❑ National Environment Protection Council Amendment Bill 2002
- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment (Earlier Access to Farm Management Deposits) Bill 2002
- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment (Venture Capital) Bill 2002
- ❑ Venture Capital Bill 2002

With amendments

- ❑ Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002—(11 Opposition (2 amended by 2 Australian Democrat), and 8 Government (3 amended by 7 Opposition) [amendments agreed to](#)) [[The House of Representatives](#) agreed to 15 amendments, disagreed to 35 amendments, and made 14 substitute amendments in place of 8 Senate amendments. The Senate insisted on the amendments disagreed to by the House. The House agreed to 3 amendments insisted on by the Senate, insisted on disagreeing to 40 amendments insisted on by the Senate, insisted on 5 and did not insist on 9 substitute amendments. The Senate further insisted on the amendments disagreed to by the House. The House will now reconsider the amendments further insisted on by the Senate.]



- ❑ Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Special Benefit Activity Test) Bill 2002–(2 Opposition, and 2 Australian Democrat [amendments agreed to](#)) [The House of Representatives agreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The bill will now be assented to.]
- ❑ Inspector-General of Taxation Bill 2002–(9 Australian Democrat [amendments agreed to](#)) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]
- ❑ Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2002–(2 Opposition [amendments agreed to](#)) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]
- ❑ Trade Practices Amendment (Liability for Recreational Services) Bill 2002–(1 Opposition (amended by 1 Opposition), and 4 Australian Democrat [amendments agreed to](#)) [The House of Representatives disagreed to the Senate amendments. The Senate did not insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House. The bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Termination) Bill 2002–(2 Opposition, and 3 Australian Democrat [amendments agreed to](#)) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following message from the House of Representatives was reported

- ❑ Plant Breeder's Rights Amendment Bill 2002–[The message](#) reported that the House of Representatives agreed to the bill without amendment [The bill will now be assented to]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were considered

- ❑ Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill (No. 2) 2002–The message ([reported on 5 December](#)) reported that the House of Representatives requested the Senate to reconsider the bill in its original form. The Senate agreed not to insist on dividing the bill, [made amendments](#) (55 Opposition and 16 Australian Democrat) and agreed to the bill. [[The House of Representatives](#) agreed to 5 amendments, disagreed to 41 amendments, and made 48 substitute amendments in place of 48 Senate amendments. The Senate insisted on the amendments disagreed to by the House. [The Senate](#) did not insist on 21 amendments disagreed to by the House, insisted on 20 amendments disagreed by the House, and agreed to the substitute amendments. The House will now reconsider the amendments disagreed to by the Senate.]
- ❑ Prohibition of Human Cloning 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]
- ❑ Research Involving Human Embryos 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]
- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment (Structured Settlements and Structured Orders) Bill 2002–The message ([reported on 11 December](#)) reported that the House of Representatives agreed to 62 and disagreed to 2 [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]

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](#) 

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

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#) 

Estimates

The particulars of proposed additional expenditure for 2002-03 (the amounts contained in the Appropriation bills) [were referred](#) to legislation committees

Documents tabled

Portfolio additional estimates statements for portfolios and executive departments [were tabled](#)

Reports tabled

- ❑ Australian meat industry consultative structure and quota allocation—Second report: Existing government advisory structures in the Australian meat industry—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- ❑ Departmental and agency contracts: Report on the first year of operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts—Finance and Public Administration References Committee
- ❑ Examination of the annual reports for 2000-01 in fulfilment of the Committee's duties pursuant to s.206(c) of the *Native Title Act 1993*—Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Joint Committee
- ❑ Publications Committee—[6th Report](#) (report adopted)
- ❑ Review of the *Managed Investments Act 1998*—Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee
- ❑ Statutory powers and functions of the Australian Law Reform Commission—Interim report—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- ❑ Superannuation and standards of living in retirement: The adequacy of the tax arrangements for superannuation and related policy—Superannuation Select Committee

Government responses

President's report on Government responses tabled

- ❑ President's report on government responses outstanding to parliamentary committee reports as at 12 December 2002

Powers and proceedings of a committee

[A message](#) from the House of Representatives reported that the House had agreed to the Senate resolution relating to the powers of the Australian Crime Commission Joint Committee as set out in the [resolution of 14 February 2002](#) relating to the powers and proceedings of the National Crime Authority Joint Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- ❑ Treaties Joint Committee—Senator Bartlett appointed

New inquiries

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiries:

- [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

Reporting date

The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:

- Statutory powers and functions of the Australian Law Reform Commission—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—20 March 2003

Notice of motion given

To refer bills to a committee

- [Medical Indemnity](#) (Prudential Supervision and Product Standards) Bill 2002—Economics Legislation Committee—to report by 20 March 2003
- [Medical Indemnity](#) (Prudential Supervision and Product Standards) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002—Economics Legislation Committee—to report by 20 March 2003

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- [Australian Film Institute awards](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Death sentence](#), including Tibetan Buddhists in China—moved by Senator Brown
- [Microcredit loans](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Professor Martin Green](#)—photovoltaic engineering—moved by Senator Allison

Motions defeated

The following motions were defeated without debate:

- [Albert Namatjira and copyright](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Food irradiation](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- [Microcredit loans](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Variation of days](#) of meeting of the Senate for 2003—moved by Senator Bartlett.
A number of senators made statements relating to the motion.

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

- [The Senate ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Science to table material provided to the Government by the Chief Scientist and the CRC committee regarding funding of certain energy bodies and other matters (no later than 4 February 2003)—moved by Senator Brown
- [The Senate ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and representing the Prime Minister to table certain correspondence relating to genetically-modified food in the context of the current free trade agreement negotiations with the United States (no later than 4pm on 4 February 2003)—moved by Senator Stott Despoja

Statements made and documents tabled by Parliamentary Secretary

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer made the following statements about orders for the production of documents:

- [Ethanol excise](#) and production subsidy—order of the Senate of [16 October 2002](#)
- [Mine leases](#) on Christmas Island held by Phosphate Resource Ltd—order of the Senate of [19 June 2002](#)
- [Options for improving](#) the welfare record of Australia's live animal export trade—order of the Senate of [11 November 2002](#). The Parliamentary Secretary also tabled a number of documents pursuant to the order.
- [Inquiries by the Department](#) of the 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—order of the Senate of [10 December 2002](#). The Senate took note of the statement.
- [Seismic testing](#) in the Townsville Trough—order of the Senate of [10 December 2002](#)
- [Walla Weir Irrigation Project](#)—order of the Senate of [10 December 2002](#). The Parliamentary Secretary also tabled a document pursuant to the order.

Document tabled by Minister

- Logging on Interlaken Road, Tasmania—The Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation tabled a document responding to the order of the Senate of [11 December 2002](#)

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—Report No. 22 of 2002-03—Business support process audit—Payment of accounts and goods and services tax administration by small Commonwealth organisations
- Australia and Egypt: A parliamentary perspective—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation to Egypt, 1 to 5 September 2002
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

- ❑ Commonwealth Ombudsman–Report for 2001-02–Monitoring of controlled operations conducted by the National Crime Authority and the Australian Federal Police
- ❑ Former Governors-General travel paid by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 1 January to 30 June 2002
- ❑ Former parliamentarians’ travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration, January to June 2002
- ❑ Human rights for asylum seekers–petitioning document
- ❑ Parliamentarians’ travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration, January to June 2002
- ❑ Productivity Commission–Report No. 25–Review of automotive assistance
- ❑ Special purpose flights–Schedule for 1 January to 30 June 2002–Department of Defence

No government documents were tabled

Petitions

[A petition](#) was received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ [Notice of a motion](#) by Senator Brown for changes to rules for question time
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Valedictory statements relating to the end of the sittings for 2002

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
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