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Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 16 October 2002

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.11pm

Legislation

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

No bills were introduced in the Senate

The following bills were considered

- Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Bill 2002–1 Opposition request for an amendment agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [request](#) made by the Senate]
- Research Agencies Legislation Amendment Bill 2002–second reading debate begun

Without amendments

[These bills will now be assented to]

- Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Bill 2002
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Registration and Accountability of Organisations) Bill 2002
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Registration and Accountability of Organisations) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2002

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

- Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill 2002
- Treasury Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 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Notice of motion withdrawn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 Employment (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 87 and made under the *Public Employment (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment Act 1999* **was withdrawn**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

- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—Alert Digest [No. 11](#) of 2002 and [12th report](#) of 2002 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—Report [No. 10](#) of 2002 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Senator Lees appointed as a participating member for matters relating to air safety

New inquiries

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

Annual reporting from the Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Senate agreed to [a motion](#) that the Community Affairs References Committee request the Commonwealth Ombudsman to report annually to it (at least for the next five years) on the operation of the social security breaches and penalties system and that the committee publish such reports

Meetings

Public meetings

The Senate agreed that the following public meetings may be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Economics Legislation Committee—17 October 2002 from 4.30pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Excise Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002 and a related bill
- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—17 October 2002 from 11.30am to 12.30pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into small business employment
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—17 October 2002 from 4pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Egg Industry Service Provision Bill 2002 and a related bill

Reporting dates

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

- Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Choice of Superannuation Funds) Bill 2002—Superannuation Select Committee—12 November 2002

Documents

- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Education, Science and Training responding to the resolution of the Senate of 28 August 2002 about the Government’s failure to respond to the Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education Reference Committee report, *Universities in Crisis*
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee—documents on the performance of Australia Post in relation to the World Trade Organisation and franchising related matters

Notice of motion given

To extend a reporting deadline

- Tax arrangements for superannuation and related policy—Superannuation Select Committee—10 December 2002

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- [Aboriginal sites—Sandon point](#)—moved by Senators Brown and Ridgeway
- [Dusseldorf Skills Forum Report](#)—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- [Mine Ban Treaty—Sister Pak Poy](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate [ordered](#) the tabling of various documents and records relating to contacts between the Australian Institute of Petroleum, Manildra, and the Australian Biofuels Association and Government ministers, advisers and officials, relating to the consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy, together with all analysis by government departments concerning the budgetary impact of the decision to impose excise on ethanol and grant a 12-month ethanol production subsidy (no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 21 October 2002)—moved by Senator O’Brien

Notice of motion given

Senator Stott Despoja gave a notice of motion to require the Minister representing the Minister for Science to table certain documents held by the Office of the Gene Technology Registrar relating to the Canola trial licence application (Application No. DIR 011/2001) (no later than 2 pm on 24 October 2002)

Documents tabled

- Departmental and agency contracts—Letters of advice from the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio [agencies](#) (*order agreed to 20 June 2001, amended 27 September 2001*)

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- [Government documents](#)
- Response to a Senate resolution (agreed to 20 August 2002) about National Aboriginal and Islanders Children's Day—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

Petitions

[2 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Government documents were discussed
- Adjournment debate

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