



Senate Daily Summary

Monday 3 March 2003

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.12pm

New senator sworn in

Senator [Gary Humphries](#) (Liberal Party, Australian Capital Territory) was sworn in to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator the Hon Margaret Reid

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2002
- Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002
- Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Contributory Parents Migration Scheme) Bill 2002
- Migration (Visa Application) Charge Amendment Bill 2002
- New Business Tax System (Consolidation and Other Measures) Bill (No. 2) 2002
- New Business Tax System (Venture Capital Deficit Tax) Bill 2002
- Sex Discrimination Amendment (Pregnancy and Work) Bill 2002
- Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment Bill 2002
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

The following bill was considered

- National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits–Budget Measures) Bill 2002 [No. 2]–second reading debate continued

The following bill was passed

With amendments

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal) Bill 2002 [No. 2]–(5 Opposition [amendments agreed to](#) and 3 items omitted) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

Bill negatived at third reading

- Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2002 [No. 2] [The Senate has rejected this bill and consideration will not continue]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

- Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2002 [2003]—The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment [The bill will now be assented to]
- Inspector-General of Taxation Bill 2002—The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate [The Senate will consider the message at a later date]

Proclamations

[Proclamations](#) by the Governor-General were tabled announcing when particular schedules and items of Acts would commence

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 given

A notice of motion was given by the Leader of the Australian Democrats to disallow items [2356], [2357] and [2358] of Schedule 2 to the Migration Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 10) as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 348 and made under the *Migration Act 1958*—5 sitting days after 3 March 2003

Notice of intention given to withdraw a notice

A notice of intention was given by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances to withdraw a notice to disallow the Bankruptcy Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 255 and made under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*

See the [Documents](#) section for details of instruments tabled

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#)

Estimates

Additional information tabled

- Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Budget estimates 2002-03 (vols 5, 6 and 7)
- Economics Legislation Committee—Additional estimates 2000-01 (vols 1 and 2), 2001-02 (vols 1, 2 and 3)
- Economics Legislation Committee—Budget estimates 2000-01 (vols 1 and 2, Supplementary vols 1, 2 and 3); 2001-02 (vols 1 to 6), 2002-03 (vols 1 and 2, Supplementary vols 1 and 2)

Report tabled

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—393rd report—Review of Auditor-General’s reports 2001-02: fourth quarter

Government response to a committee report tabled

- Not the Hilton—Immigration detention centres: Inspection—Migration Joint Committee

Document tabled

- Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2002—Supplementary submission—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Membership

A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising that Mrs Hull would replace Mr Cobb on the Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fund Joint Committee

Reporting dates

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

- Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002—Economics Legislation Committee—19 March 2003

Notices of motion given

To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—5 March 2003 from 4.30pm—to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the disclosure of commissions on risk products
- Economics Legislation Committee—6 March 2003 from 4pm—to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors’ Bonuses) Bill 2002
- Superannuation Select Committee—5 March 2003 from 6pm until 8.30pm—to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Bill 2002 and the Superannuation (Financial Assistance Funding) Levy Amendment Bill 2002

To extend reporting deadlines

- Environmental performance at the Ranger, Jabiluka, Beverley and Honeymoon uranium operations—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—9 April 2003
- The role of libraries as providers of public information in the online environment—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—24 June 2003

To refer a matter to a committee

- The operation and effectiveness of Australia’s security and intelligence agencies in the lead up to the Bali bombings—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—[to report by 26 June 2003](#)

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to [a motion](#) (without debate) about former Colombian Senator Ingrid Betancourt and Ms Clara Rojas being held captive by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—moved by Senator Brown

Notices of motion

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

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Defence made [a statement](#) and tabled the report *Australia's National Security: A Defence Update 2003*. The Senate took note of the statement.

Orders for the production of documents

Notice of motion given

Senator O'Brien gave a notice of motion calling on the government to comply with the order of the Senate ([agreed to 16 October 2002](#)) requiring the tabling of certain documents relating to the government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy (no later than 5pm on 6 March 2003)

Statement by Minister

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer made [a statement](#) about the orders for the production of documents ([agreed to 5 February 2003](#)) concerning the government's consideration of a National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia. The Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the government would not comply with the orders because it considered the documents to be confidential.

Documents tabled

- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme—Inter-departmental committee—[Documents tabled](#) ([agreed to 3 December 2002](#)). The documents were presented to the Deputy President on 27 February 2003.

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet
Statements of compliance for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Industry, Tourism and Resources portfolio (for the period 1 July to 31 December 2002) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order [agreed to](#) and [amended](#)]

Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet

Statements of compliance for the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme Board, the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme Board and the Treasury portfolio were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order [agreed to](#) and [amended](#)]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—Reports [Nos 28 to 30](#) of 2002-03—Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Opposition shadow ministry as at 18 February 2003
- Parliamentary zone—proposal for works relating to—
 - additional works at Reconciliation Place for the design and content of the sixth sliver. [A notice of motion](#) was given seeking approval of the proposed works.
 - the temporary installation of vehicle barriers and permanent CCTV cameras. [A notice of motion](#) was given seeking approval of the proposed works.
- Responses to Senate resolutions about:
 - [David Gulpilil](#)—Australian Film Institute Best Actor award (agreed to [5 February 2003](#))
 - [East Timorese asylum seekers](#) living in Darwin (agreed to [11 December 2002](#)). The Senate debated a motion to take note of the document.
 - [Photovoltaic energy](#) (agreed to [9 December 2002](#))
 - [Swimming Australia's new member protection policy](#) (agreed to [11 December 2002](#))

No government documents were tabled

Petitions

[A petition](#) was 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
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