Senate
Daily Summary
Thursday 4 and Friday 5 December
2003

The Senate met from 9.30am on Thursday 4 December until Friday 5 December at 5.18pm.

The Senate has now completed its Spring sittings and will commence Autumn sittings on 10 February 2004.

Legislation
For full text of bills and other associated documents click here

The following bills were introduced in the Senate
- Australian Crime Commission Amendment Bill 2003
- Australian Federal Police and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Designs Bill 2003
- Designs (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Fisheries Legislation Amendment (Compliance and Deterrence Measures and Other Matters) Bill 2003
- Norfolk Island Amendment Bill 2003

The following bills were passed
Without amendments
[These bills will now be assented to]
- Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Amendment Bill 2003
- ASIO Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Members of Local Government Bodies) Bill 2002
- Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003
- Designs Bill 2003
- Designs (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Protection for Victorian Workers) Bill 2003

With amendments
[The House of Representatives will now consider these amendments]
- Family Law Amendment Bill 2003–16 Government amendments agreed to
- Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003–1 Democrat and 12 Government amendments agreed to
With amendments and requests

- Higher Education Support Bill 2003–129 Government, 1 Democrat and 1 Independent amendments agreed to, 2 clauses and 1 Division omitted, and 5 Government requests for amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives made the amendments requested by the Senate. The House will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

- Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003–26 Government amendments, and 2 requests for amendment agreed to, and 3 items omitted [The House of Representatives made the amendments requested by the Senate. The House will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were considered

- Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives disagreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

- Legislative Instruments Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to amendments nos 1, 2 and 4 to 22 made by the Senate, disagreed to amendment no. 3 and made further amendments. The Senate agreed not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House and agreed to the further amendments made by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 5) 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives disagreed to the amendment made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on the amendment disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

- Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives disagreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House and made a further amendment. [The House of Representatives will now consider the further amendment made by the Senate]

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

- Designs (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003

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

Statement on motion for disallowance

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Tchen) made a statement concerning a motion for disallowance of the Inclusion of Species in the List of Threatened Species, made under section 178 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and gazetted on 6 August 2003
Notices of motion given
A notice of motion was given by Senator Conroy to disallow Schedule 3 of the Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 8), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 282 and made under the Corporations Act 2001

See the Documents section for details of instruments tabled

Committees
For scheduled public committee hearings click here
For committee reports click here

Reports tabled
- Administrative review of veteran and military compensation and income support—Finance and Public Administration References Committee
- Effectiveness of the National Native Title Tribunal in fulfilment of the Committee’s duties pursuant to subparagraph 206(d)(i) of the Native Title Act 1993—Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Joint Committee
- Procedure Committee—Third report of 2003–Joint meetings to receive addresses by foreign heads of state; Reference of tax expenditure statements to estimates hearings
- Publications Committee—14th report [report adopted]
- Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003 and associated regulations—Economics Legislation Committee
- The (not quite) White Paper: Australia’s foreign affairs and trade policy, Advancing the national interest—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Government responses
President’s report on Government responses tabled
President’s report on government responses outstanding to parliamentary committee reports as at 4 December 2003

Statement
Senator Heffernan made a statement about the progress of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee inquiry into the application and expenditure of funds by Australian Wool Innovation Ltd

Membership
The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership
New inquiries
The Senate agreed to the following new inquiries:

Reporting dates
The Senate agreed to the following extensions of time for committees to report:
- Exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 13 May 2004
- Whether the Trade Practices Act 1974 adequately protects small business–Economics References Committee—to report by 11 February 2004

Notices of motion given
To refer matters to a committee
- Australia’s involvement in preparations for the deployment of the United States of America’s proposed missile defence program–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 16 July 2004

Motions agreed to
The Senate agreed to motions about:
- Genetically modified crops–moved by Senator Cherry
- G-rated television broadcasting–moved by Senator Ridgeway
- Jimmy Little–2003 Red Ochre Award–moved by Senator Ridgeway
- Regional Arts Fund–moved by Senator Brown
- 2UE and 2GB–proposed merger–moved by Senator Cherry
- Vietnam–Human rights–moved by Senators Humphries and Stott Despoja

Motion defeated
A motion moved by Senator Allison about the use of ethanol and other alternative fuels was defeated

Notices of motion
For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here
**Orders for the production of documents**

**Documents tabled**
The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs tabled documents in response to the order of the Senate to table all documents produced since 1 January 1999 relating to work undertaken by the public relations company Turnbull Porter Novelli for Biotechnology Australia and the department [agreed to 25 June 2003 on the motion of Senator Brown]

**Statements by Ministers**
Ministers made statements about orders of the Senate for the production of:
- Certain documents prepared by the Department of the Treasury relating to: the First Home Owner Grant scheme; the impact of ‘bracket creep’; and the preparation of the Intergenerational Report 2002-03 [agreed to 1 December 2003 on the motion of Senator Conroy]. The Minister indicated that the government was considering an appropriate response to the order.
- Those parts of the audit report on the Sepon mine project in Laos referred to by the Minister for Finance and Administration in his statement to the Senate on 25 November 2003 which relate to the environmental and social impacts of the project [agreed to 3 December 2003 on the motion of Senator Nettle]. The Minister indicated that the order would not be complied with due to public interest immunity concerns.
- All correspondence and documents between certain parties about the PBS listing of, and education campaign for, the Thiazolidineone group of drugs [agreed to 3 December 2003 on the motion of Senator Nettle]. The Minister indicated that the order was under consideration.

**Orders with continuing effect**
*Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet*
The Senate agreed to amend the order—moved by Senator Forshaw [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]

**Documents**
The following documents were tabled:
- Auditor-General–Report No. 16 of 2003-04—Performance audit–Administration of consular services follow-up audit: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Clerk’s documents [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Government documents
- Parliamentary zone—proposal and documentation relating to the design and content of the seventh sliver at Reconciliation Place. The Senate also agreed to a motion to approve the capital works.
- 2 petitions were received
Also in the Senate

- 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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