



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
- Treaties Joint Committee—57th Report—Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code

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:

- Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—to report by 25 March 2004
- Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill 2003 and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—to report by 19 March 2004

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 Thiazolidineione 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
- Auditor-General—Report No. 17 of 2003-04—Performance audit—AQIS cost-recovery systems follow-up audit: Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
- [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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