



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 6 March 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 6.54pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Health Legislation Amendment (Private Health Insurance Reform) Bill 2003
- Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Protecting the Low Paid) Bill 2003

The following bills were considered

Second reading debate continued on the following bills

- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2002
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Protecting the Great Barrier Reef from Oil Drilling and Exploration) Amendment Bill 2003 [No. 2] [Private senator's bill]

The following bills were passed

Without amendments [These bills will now be assented to]

- Maritime Legislation 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
- Passenger Movement Charge (Timor Sea Treaty) Amendment Bill 2003
- Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) Bill 2003
- Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment Bill 2002

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

- Passenger Movement Charge (Timor Sea Treaty) Amendment Bill 2003
- Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) Bill 2003
- Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) (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](#)

Documents tabled

- Delegated Legislation Monitor—Regulations and disallowable instruments tabled in the Senate in 2002—Regulations and Ordinances Standing Committee
- Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation, June 2002 to February 2003—Regulations and Ordinances Standing Committee

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

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#)

No reports were tabled

Membership

The Senate agreed to a number of [changes](#) to committee membership

Government responses to committee reports

Response tabled

- [Treaties Joint Committee](#)—17th report—United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, August 1998

Motion agreed to

[The Senate noted](#) the government's failure to respond to the July 2001 report of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee on the National Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) Program, and called on the government to respond to the report

New inquiries

Motion debated

Senator Brown [moved](#) that the operation and effectiveness of Australia's security and intelligence agencies in the lead up to the Bali bombings, and related matters, be referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for inquiry and report by 26 June 2003. The motion, and an [amendment](#) to it moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, will be further considered on a future sitting day.

Motion defeated

[A motion](#) by Senator Nettle to refer matters concerning the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to the Community Affairs References Committee was defeated

Meetings

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

- Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Joint Committee—18 March 2003 from 8pm

Reporting dates

The Senate agreed to the following extensions of time for committees to report:

- Poverty and financial hardship–Community Affairs References Committee–18 September 2003
- Recruitment and training in the Australian Public Service–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–26 June 2003

Notice of motion given

To refer matters to a committee

- [The role, functions](#) and accountability of staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–to report by 8 October 2003

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- [Burma](#)–Global Day of Prayer–moved by Senators Payne and Ridgeway
- [Cancer deaths](#)–Nuclear testing–moved by Senator Allison
- [David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib](#)–moved by Senator Nettle
- [Iraq](#)–Recovery of injured children–moved by Senator Murray
- [Iraq](#)–Use of nuclear weapons–moved by Senator Allison
- [Maurice Gibb](#)–Death–moved by Senator Ian Campbell
- Parliamentary zone–The Senate [agreed to proposals](#) relating to capital works within the Parliamentary Zone for:
 - Additional works at Reconciliation Place, namely, the design and content of the sixth sliver
 - Erection of public artwork to celebrate the centenary of women’s suffrage in Australia
 - Installation of temporary vehicle barriers and permanent CCTV cameras

Motions defeated

The Senate defeated motions without debate about:

- [Interception of communications of UN delegates](#)–moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- [International Criminal Court](#)–Ratification of Rome Statute–moved by Senator Greig
- [Iraq](#)–Australian military involvement–moved by Senator Bartlett
- [Iraq](#)–Australian military involvement–moved by Senator Nettle
- [Iraq](#)–Australian military involvement–moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Iraq](#)–Containment under UN supervision–moved by Senator Cherry
- [Medicare bulk billing](#)–moved by Senator Nettle

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Statement by Minister

The Minister for the Arts and Sport made [a statement](#) about the order for the production of documents ([agreed to 5 February 2003](#)) concerning defence-related issues about the National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia. The Minister indicated that the government would not comply with the order because it considered the documents to be confidential.

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

Statements of compliance for the International Air Services Commission 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](#)]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ Parliamentary delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 27 October to 9 November 2002—Report

No government documents were tabled

Petitions

[3 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ [Senator Brown](#) was suspended from the sitting of the Senate for the rest of the day for persistent and wilful refusal to conform to standing orders
- ❑ Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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