



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 8 October 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.58pm

Proposed joint meetings

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported indicating that the House wishes to invite the [President of the United States of America](#) and the [President of the People's Republic of China](#), on 23 and 24 October 2003 respectively, to address a joint meeting of both houses. The Minister for Defence gave notices of motion supporting the invitations to the Presidents and the joint meetings.

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Family and Community Services and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2003 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2003
- Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment Bill 2003
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Agents Integrity Measures) Bill 2003

The following bill was considered

- Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced (2 Opposition and 7 Democrat [amendments](#) agreed to, and 1 Government [amendment](#) to be determined)

The following bills were passed

Without amendments

- Crimes (Overseas) Amendment Bill 2003 [This bill will now be assented to]

With amendments

- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 7) 2003—2 Opposition amendments agreed, and 72 items omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

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](#)

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

Committees

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

For committee reports [click here](#)

Estimates

Document tabled

- Estimates of proposed expenditure for 2003-04–Portfolio budget statements–Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio–Corrigendum

Reports tabled

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–396th Report–Review of Auditor-General’s reports 2002-2003: First, second and third quarters–
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee–Alert Digest [No. 12](#) of 2003 and [11th report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee–[Report No. 12](#) of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

New inquiries

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

Meetings

Public meetings

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

- Economics Legislation Committee–28 October 2003 from 4.30pm–Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003
- National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee–16 October 2003 from 6pm to 7pm–Role of the National Capital Authority

The Senate agreed to vary an order to hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting:

- Economics Legislation Committee–13 October 2003 from 4pm–after consideration of the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003, to also take evidence on the International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill 2003

Reporting dates

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

- Aviation Transport Security Bill 2003 and a related bill–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 9 October 2003
- Forestry plantations–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by the last sitting day in 2003
- Staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–to report by 16 October 2003

Notices of motion given

To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Finance and Public Administration References Committee—9 October 2003 from 11am to 12.30pm—Staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*

To extend reporting deadlines

- Labour market skills requirements—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 30 October 2003
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Compliance with Court and Tribunal Orders) Bill 2003 and the Workplace Relations Amendment (Codifying Contempt Offences) Bill 2003—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee—to report by 30 October 2003
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Remedies for Unprotected Action) Bill 2002—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee—to report by 30 October 2003

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Defence made [a statement](#) about the Australian Constitution and tabled a discussion paper on section 57 of the Constitution. The Senate debated a motion to take note of the statement and the document. During the debate the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate [tabled a discussion paper](#) about constitutional reform and the resolution of parliamentary deadlock. The debate will continue on a future sitting day.

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Bipolar disorder](#)—moved by Senator Allison
- [“Depleted Uranium—Uranium Weapons: The Trojan Horses of Nuclear War conference—Australian representation—moved by Senator Allison](#)
- [Explosive remnants of war](#)—moved by Senators Bartlett and Stott Despoja
- [Gambling](#)—moved by Senator Allison

Notices of motion

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

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

Senator Allison asked the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs for [an explanation](#) for an answer not being provided to a question relating to detention centres. The Minister [indicated](#) that an answer would be provided. [The Senate agreed](#) to take note of the minister’s failure to provide either an answer or an explanation.

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

[The Senate ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing to table the most recent draft of the National Drug Research Strategy, as prepared by the National Drug Research Committee (no later than 9 October 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

[The Senate ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing to table several documents about immunisation and related issues (no later than 9 October 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

Notice of motion given

Senator Nettle gave [a notice of motion](#) to require the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Minister representing the Minister for Trade to table all documents relating to the proposed Australia-United States free trade agreement and the regulation of labelling of genetically-modified foods in Australia and/or the United States (no later than 4pm on 15 October 2003)

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Carbon dioxide emissions—Responses to the Senate resolution ([agreed to](#) 24 June 2003) from the Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Environment
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [7 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ [Matter of public importance](#) discussion about live sheep export
- ❑ Senator Ludwig made [a personal explanation](#) about certain comments made concerning a petition relating to Medicare and the decline in the rate of bulk billing
- ❑ Government documents were discussed
- ❑ 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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