The Senate met from 9.30am until 6.53pm

**Joint meetings**

The Senate considered messages from the House of Representatives and agreed to motions inviting the President of the United States of America and the President of the People’s Republic of China [and see entry Journals item 34] to address joint meetings of both houses on 23 and 24 October 2003, respectively.

**Legislation**

For full text of bills and other associated documents click here

The following bills were introduced in the Senate
- Civil Aviation Amendment Bill 2003

The following bills were passed

- **Without amendments**
  - Civil Aviation Amendment Bill 2003
  - Statistics Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
  - Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 8) 2003

- **With amendments**
  - Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Bill 2003 [The House of Representatives made the amendments requested by the Senate. The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported
- Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to amendments nos 7 and 12 made by the Senate, and disagreed to amendments nos 1 to 6 and 8 to 11 [The Senate will reconsider the amendments disagreed to by the House on a future sitting day]
Superannuation (Surcharge Rate Reduction) Amendment Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to amendments nos 1 to 26 and 28 to 32 made by the Senate and disagreed to amendment no. 27 [The Senate will reconsider the amendment disagreed to by the House on a future sitting day]

Notice of motion given to introduce a bill

Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003–Notice of motion given by Senator Brown [Private senator’s bill]

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

Regulations disallowed

The Senate agreed to disallow the Migration Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 6), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 224 and made under the Migration Act 1958

Notices of motion given

A notice of motion was given to disallow Amendment 46 of the National Capital Plan (Gungahlin Drive Extension–Black Mountain Nature Reserve), made under section 19 of the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988–by Senator Brown

See the Documents section for details of instruments tabled

Committees

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

Reports tabled

Reconciliation: Off track–Legal and Constitutional References Committee

Government responses to committee reports tabled

Materiel acquisition and management in Defence–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
Visit to Australian forces deployed in the international coalition against terrorism: Parliament’s brief on the war on terrorism–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee

Reporting dates

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

Notices of motion given

To refer regulations to a committee


Ministerial statement

The Senate debated a motion to take note of the ministerial statement made by the Minister for Defence and the discussion paper on section 57 of the Constitution tabled on 8 October 2003. During the debate Senator Nettle tabled the Australian Greens discussion paper and a critique of the Prime Minister’s Senate reform plans. The debate will continue on a future sitting day.

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:
- Agricultural subsidies—moved by Senator Nettle
- LPG fuel industry—moved by Senator Allison
- Bali–Anniversary of terrorist attacks—moved by the Minister for Defence
- Foreign television programming—moved by Senator Nettle

Motions defeated

The Senate did not agree to motions about:
- Anti-vehicle mines—moved by Senator Nettle
- Constitution—Section 57–Discussion paper—moved by Senator Allison
- Live sheep and cattle export—moved by Senator Brown

Notices of motion

For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

The Senate ordered the Minister representing the Minister for Science to table certain documents relating to question on notice no. 1374 (no later than 5pm on 13 October 2003)—moved by Senator Brown
The Senate ordered 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)

Notices of motion given
Senator Evans gave a notice of motion to require the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer to table documents relating to calculations of the Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) levy following the collapse of United Medical Protection (no later than 5pm on 14 October 2003)

Senator Allison gave a notice of motion to require the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to table certain documents relating to the management of detention centres (no later than 3pm on 16 October 2003)

Statement by Minister and documents tabled
The Special Minister of State made a statement and tabled documents relating to immunisation in response to a motion moved by Senator Allison on 8 October 2003

Statement by Minister
The Special Minister of State made a statement about the order for production of documents to table the most recent draft of the National Drug Research Strategy, as prepared by the National Drug Research Committee. The Minister indicated that the Strategy requires clearance.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:
- Clerk’s documents [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Passive smoking–Response to the Senate resolution (agreed to 11 September 2003) from the Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory
- 3 petitions were received

No government documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General’s reports were discussed
- Adjournment debate

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