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Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 14 May 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.26pm

Procedural changes

The Senate [agreed](#) to three recommendations of the Procedure Committee, contained in its First Report of 2003, to change standing orders in relation to: the times of meeting and routine of business on Tuesdays, the deadline for the receipt of bills and the meeting of committees during the adjournment debate

Legislation

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

The following bill was introduced in the Senate

- Migration Legislation Amendment (Further Border Protection Measures) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

No bills were passed

Notice of motion given

To exempt a bill from certain provisions of standing order 111 [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Therapeutic Goods Amendment Bill (No. 1) 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](#)

Notice of motion withdrawn

A notice of motion to disallow items [2356], [2357] and [2358] of Schedule 2 to the Migration Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 10), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 348 and made under the *Migration Act 1958* was withdrawn

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

Committees

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

Reports tabled

- Proposed development of off-base housing for Defence at Adamstown, Newcastle, NSW—Public Works Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 5](#) of 2003 and [4th report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 5 of 2003](#) (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- Terrorism Insurance Bill 2002—Economics Legislation Committee

Adoption of a committee's recommendations

The Senate agreed to a [motion](#) to adopt recommendations contained in the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee's report on materiel acquisition and management in Defence, requesting that:

- (a) the Auditor-General be undertake a cultural audit of the Defence Materiel Organisation; and
- (b) the Auditor-General report annually to the Senate on progress on major defence projects [and see Orders for the Production of Documents]

New inquiries

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

Meetings

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

- Community Affairs Legislation Committee—15 May 2003 from 3.30pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Health Legislation Amendment (Private Health Insurance Reform) Bill 2003
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—19 June 2003 from 7pm to 11pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the examination of the Government's foreign and trade policy strategy
- Legal and Constitutional References Committee—14 May 2003 from 4.30pm to 6pm and on 15 May 2003 from 9.30am to 11.30am to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into progress towards national reconciliation
- Superannuation Select Committee—15 May 2003 from 3.30pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into planning for retirement

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 16 June 2003
- Civil Aviation Amendment Bill 2003—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—to report by 16 June 2003
- Environmental performance at the Ranger, Jabiluka, Beverley and Honeymoon uranium operations—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by 24 June 2003

- Government foreign and trade policy strategy–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 20 August 2003
- Labour market skills requirements—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 28 October 2003
- Performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002—to report by 4 November 2003
- Progress towards national reconciliation—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 11 August 2003
- Refusal of the Government to respond to the order of the Senate of 21 August 2002 for the production of documents relating to financial information concerning higher education institutions—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 19 August 2003
- Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 2002—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—to report by 16 June 2003

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- [Death of Mr Walter Max Ulyate Sisulu](#)—former African National Congress Deputy President—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [International Midwives Day](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Sexuality Discrimination—Superannuation](#)—moved by Senator Greig

Motion debated

The Senate continued to debate [a motion](#) moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and a proposed amendment to the motion moved by Senator Murphy, urging the Prime Minister to establish a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in Australia, and the Governor-General to immediately resign or, if he does not do so, the Prime Minister to advise the Queen of Australia to terminate the Commission of the Governor-General

Notices of motion

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

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Defence made [a statement](#) relating to military action against Iraq and moved that the Senate take note of the statement. Senators [Faulkner](#), [Bartlett](#) and [Brown](#) debated the motion, and the Senate took note of the statement.

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

The Senate ordered the production, upon its completion, of the report by the Director of Trial of the Review of Test and Evaluation in Defence, and to refer the document to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for examination and report

The Senate ordered the Minister representing the Minister for Science to table the document containing the list of potential sites for the location of a national store for intermediate level radioactive waste that has been prepared by the National Store Advisory Committee, referred to in the media release prepared by the Minister for Science, ‘SA Ruled Out’, dated 9 May 2003 (no later than 1pm on 15 May 2003)—moved by Senators Allison and Stott Despoja

The Senate ordered the tabling of the most recent application documents from the Australian Grand Prix Corporation to the Federal Government for exemption from the *Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992* on the grounds of economic hardship, and the documents detailing the Government’s reasons for being satisfied that the case for economic hardship was met (no later than 4pm on 15 May 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

The Senate ordered the Minister for Defence to table the ‘further information’ CD-rom which is obtainable from Colliers International (Vic) Pty Ltd, regarding the expressions of interest in Defence land for sale at Point Nepean (no later than noon on 15 May 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

The Senate ordered the Minister for Health and Ageing to table the report of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), October 2002, and the National Health and Medical Research Council report on the new ATAGI recommended vaccines, March 2003 (no later than 3pm on 15 May 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

The Senate ordered the tabling of the letters exchanged between the Victorian and Federal Governments since 1 July 2001 concerning the Basslink project, other than those letters relating to the planning process (no later than 4pm on 15 May 2003)—moved by Senator Allison

The Senate ordered the Minister representing the Minister for Science to table all documents dated 1 January 2001 or later relating to the hiring out and work undertaken by public relations company Hill and Knowlton, in relation to nuclear issues, including the nuclear waste dump (no later than 3.30pm on 17 June 2003)—moved by Senator Brown

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

Senator Harris asked the Minister representing the Attorney-General for an explanation of an answer not being provided to question on notice no. 1392 relating to privacy. The Minister indicated that an explanation would be provided. The Senate took note of the Minister's answer.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Department of the Senate—Survey of senators' satisfaction with the services provided by the department, May 2003—Report
- [Government documents](#)
- Michigan State Senate Resolution of Gratitude—Australia's participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 8 April 2003

Petitions

No petitions were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- The Deputy President informed the Senate of the death, on 22 April 2003, of Leonard Stanley Reid, DFC, a member of the House of Representatives for the division of Holt from 1969 to 1972
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Government documents were discussed
- Adjournment debate

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