



# Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 19 March 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 11.37pm

## Debate on Iraq

The Senate continued to [debate](#) a [motion](#) moved by the Leader of the Government in the Senate relating to Iraq, and proposed amendments to the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and the Leader of the Australian Democrats

## Legislation

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

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003
- Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Dairy) Bill 2003
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 2003

### No bills were passed

*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

#### *Reports tabled*

- Additional estimates 2002-03—reports by [various](#) legislation committees

**Additional information tabled**

- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee—  
Supplementary budget estimates 2002-03

**Reports tabled**

- Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002—  
Economics Legislation Committee
- Public Works Joint Committee—66<sup>th</sup> Annual Report
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 3](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills  
on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 3](#) of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains  
recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Bill 2002 and  
Superannuation (Financial Assistance Funding) Levy Amendment Bill 2002—  
Superannuation Select Committee
- Treaties Joint Committee—51<sup>st</sup> Report—Treaties tabled on 12 November and  
3 December 2002

**Membership**

The Senate agreed to the following changes to committee membership:

- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—  
Senator McLucas appointed as participating member
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Senator  
McGauran appointed as participating member

**New inquiry**

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiry:

- Adequacy and appropriateness of the framework for employment and  
management of staff under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* and  
[related matters](#)—Finance and Public Administration References Committee—to  
report by 8 October 2003

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

**Meetings while the Senate is sitting**

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

- ASIO, ASIS and DSD Joint Committee—to hold private meetings on 20 March  
2003 from 11am to noon and 27 March 2003 from 11am to noon—in relation to  
the committee's inquiry into the review of agency security arrangements
- Economics Legislation Committee—to hold a public meeting on 24 March 2003  
from 4.30pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Corporations  
(Fees) Amendment Bill 2002 and 2 related bills

**Reporting dates**

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

- Additional estimates 2002-03—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—  
20 March 2003

- ❑ Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—25 March 2003
- ❑ Report on annual reports—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—15 May 2003
- ❑ Report on annual reports—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee—26 March 2003
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee—26 March 2003

#### **Notices of motion given**

##### *To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting*

- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—24 March 2003 from 4pm to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003 and a related bill

##### *To extend a reporting deadline*

- ❑ Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 2002—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—14 May 2003

### **Motions agreed to**

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- ❑ [Genetically engineered crops](#)—Soybean contamination—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- ❑ [Indigenous Australians](#)—Olympic Museum Foundation—copyright—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- ❑ [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme](#)—Free trade negotiations—moved by Senator Nettle

### **Motions defeated**

The Senate defeated motions without debate about:

- ❑ [Disability services](#)—Funding—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Fringe benefits tax](#)—Sustainable transport—moved by Senator Nettle
- ❑ [Tobacco advertising](#)—Australian Grand Prix—moved by Senator Allison

### **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 for Defence to table all documents commissioned by the Australian Government and its agencies and the United Nations that provide comments on, or formal legal advice regarding, the legality of involvement in a war with Iraq where there is no resolution subsequent to Resolution 1441 (no later than 4pm on 20 March 2003)

The Senate [ordered](#) the tabling of the letter dated 2 December 2002 from the Minister for Health and Ageing to the European Commission on the matter of the European Union's decision to phase out tobacco sponsorship of formula one races in 2003 (no later than 4pm on 20 March 2003)

### **Orders with continuing effect**

#### *Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet*

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) 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](#)]

#### *Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet*

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) were tabled [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](#) and [amended](#)]

## **Questions on notice—failure to provide answers**

Senator Allison asked the Minister for Defence for an explanation of an answer not being provided to question on notice no. 1154 about nuclear weapons use and Iraq. The Minister did not provide an explanation. The Senate [took note](#) of the Minister's failure to provide either an answer or an explanation.

## **Documents**

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General—Report No. 33 of 2002-03—Performance audit—Management of e-Business in the Department of Education, Science and Training
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ Commonwealth Day message from Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, dated 10 March 2003
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ Letter to the President of the Senate from the Premier of New South Wales about the protection of unsupervised children—Swimming Australia—in response to a Senate resolution (agreed to [11 December 2002](#))

## **Petitions**

[4 petitions](#) were received

## **Also in the Senate yesterday**

- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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