



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 25 June 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 10.08pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government) Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]
- Governor-General Amendment Bill 2003
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Sponsorship Measures) Bill 2003
- Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill 2003

The following bills were considered

- Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2002—committee of the whole continued—([amendments agreed to](#): 10 Government (1 amended by Greens), 11 Australian Progressive Alliance, 2 One Nation, 1 Democrat and 3 Harradine. 1 Democrat amendment to be determined)

The following bill was passed with amendments

- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—(27 Government (1 amended by Opposition) and 3 Opposition amendments agreed to, and 1 clause omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)])

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003—The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to the [amendments made](#) by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003—The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to the [amendments made](#) and insisted on by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]

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

- Governor-General Amendment Bill 2003
- HIH Royal Commission (Transfer of Records) Bill 2003

Notices of motion given

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

- Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Migration Amendment (Duration of Detention) Bill 2003
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Protection for Emergency Management Volunteers) Bill 2003

To introduce a bill

- Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003—Notice of motion given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

*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](#)

Reports tabled

- Examination of annual reports for 2001-2002—Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Joint Committee
- Privileges Committee—[113th Report](#)—Australian Press Council and Committee of Privileges: Exchange of correspondence. The Senate [took note](#) of the report.
- Proposed provision of facilities for the Australian Capital Territory multi user depot, HMAS Harman, ACT—Public Works Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 7](#) of 2003 and [6th report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 7](#) of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

Government response to President's report tabled

Response to schedule of government responses outstanding to reports tabled by the President on 12 December 2002

Membership

The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) to committee membership

New inquiries

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiry:

- Whether the *Trade Practices Act 1974* adequately protects small businesses from anti-competitive or unfair conduct, and [related matters](#)—Economics References Committee—to report by 4 December 2003

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

Meetings

Public meetings

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

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—26 June 2003 from 11am to 12.30pm—to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the management and integrity of electronic information in the Commonwealth

Reporting dates

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

- Australia's relationship with Papua New Guinea and other Pacific island countries—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—12 August 2003
- Aviation Transport Security Bill 2003 and a related bill—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—19 August 2003
- The administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J.*—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—last sitting day in 2003
- The administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—last sitting day in 2003
- The import risk assessment on New Zealand apples—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—last sitting day in 2003

Notices of motion given

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—26 June 2003 from 7pm—to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the application and expenditure of funds by Australian Wool Innovation Ltd.

To extend a reporting deadline

- Planning for retirement—Superannuation Select Committee—21 August 2003

To refer a matter to committees

- The current and prospective levels of competition in broadband services, including interconnection and pricing in both the wholesale and retail markets, and related matters—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by the last sitting day in March 2004
- The regulation, control and management of invasive species, being non-native flora and fauna that may threaten biodiversity, and related matters, including the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by the last sitting day in March 2004
- Parents as educators in the early childhood years, and related matters—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by the last sitting day in June 2004

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation made [a statement](#) relating to a review of Commonwealth fisheries policy and [tabled documents](#). The Senate debated a motion to take note of the minister's statement.

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- Parliamentary zone—[The Senate agreed](#) to a proposal by the National Capital Authority for landscape and lighting works at the Treasury Building
- Parliamentary zone—[The Senate agreed](#) to a proposal by the National Capital Authority for the design for the Commonwealth Place Forecourt
- [Point Nepean](#) National Park and Point Nepean Living Museum—moved by Senator Allison

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources to table all documents produced since 1 January 1999 relating to work undertaken by the public relations company Turnbull Porter Novelli for Biotechnology Australia and the department—moved by Senator Brown

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet

The Chair of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee gave notice of [a motion](#) to amend the order relating to the requirement for letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies to be tabled twice yearly

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—Report No. 56 of 2002-03—Performance audit—Management of specialist information system skills: Department of Defence
- Auditor-General—Report No. 57 of 2002-03—Performance audit—Administration of the payment of tax by non-residents: Australian Taxation Office
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- [Government documents](#)
- Parliamentary zone—proposal relating to additional works connected with the reconstruction of the Old Parliament House gardens. [A notice of motion](#) was given seeking approval for the proposed works.

Petitions

No petitions were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Adjournment debate

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