



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 29 October 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.40pm

Legislation

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

No bills were introduced in the Senate

The following bill was considered

- ❑ Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003—second reading debate continued

No bills were passed

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

- ❑ Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Bill 2003
- ❑ Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- ❑ Farm Household Support Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003
- ❑ Spam Bill 2003
- ❑ Spam (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- ❑ Telecommunications Interception and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

Notice of motion given to introduce a bill

- ❑ Kyoto Protocol Ratification Bill 2003 [No. 2]—Notice of motion given by Senators Brown and Lundy [Private senators' bill]

Bills assented to

[Assent](#) to several bills was reported in 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](#)

Motion defeated

The Senate debated a motion to disallow clause 4(3) of the Housing Assistance (Form of Agreement) Determination 2003, made under section 5 of the *Housing Assistance Act 1996*. The Senate agreed **not** to disallow the clause.

Notices of motion withdrawn

Notices of motion to disallow the following delegated legislation were withdrawn:

- ❑ Civil Aviation Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 5), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 201 and made under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*
- ❑ Civil Aviation Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 6), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 232 and made under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*
- ❑ Fisheries Management Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 3), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 112 and made under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*

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

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#)

Reports tabled

- ❑ Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003–Economics Legislation Committee
- ❑ Management of the quarantine risks associated with the possible return to Australia of sheep aboard the MV *Cormo Express*–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee–[Alert Digest](#) No. 13 of 2003 [contains assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- ❑ Selection of Bills Committee–[Report No. 14](#) of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- ❑ Spam Bill 2003 and the Spam (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following changes to committee membership:

- ❑ Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–Senator Johnston to replace Senator Barnett for the committee’s inquiry into the exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional References Committee–Senator Buckland appointed as participating member

New inquiries

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiries:

- Privileges Committee—[Certain matters](#) relating to the joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives to receive an address by the President of the United States of America on 23 October 2003—no reporting date specified
- Privileges Committee—[Certain matters](#) relating to the joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives to receive an address by the President of the People's Republic of China 24 October 2003—no reporting date specified

*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 meeting may be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Economics References Committee—30 October 2003 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm—Whether the *Trade Practices Act 1974* adequately protects small business

Reporting dates

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

- Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [No. 2] and a related bill—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee—to report by 26 November 2003
- Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters Select Committee—to report by the last day in February 2004

Motion defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to refer the [disappearance of](#) many birds from the parliamentary grounds and related matters to the House Committee

Notices of motion given

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—30 October 2003 from 4pm—rural water resource usage

To extend reporting deadlines

- Labour market skills requirements—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 6 November 2003
- Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—to report by 25 November 2003

To refer matters to a committee

- The effectiveness of the Australian military justice system and [related matters](#)—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 12 May 2004

Concerning claims of commercial-in-confidence by witnesses before Senate committees

- Senator Carr gave a [notice of motion](#) concerning claims of commercial-in-confidence by witnesses before Senate committees

Motion defeated

A motion moved by Senator Bartlett to vary Senate sitting days to meet from 17 to 20 November 2003 was defeated

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Statements by Ministers

The Minister for Defence made a statement relating to the order (agreed to [28 October 2003](#)) requiring the tabling of two expert reports relating to the use of human embryos for research. [The Minister indicated](#) that the government was seeking the approval of states and territories to release the reports.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads made a statement relating to the order (agreed to [28 October 2003](#)) for the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training to table the regional impact statement prepared by the Department of Education, Science and Training, in support, explanation and justification of the higher education policy package, referred to at the hearing of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee on 17 October 2003. [The Minister indicated](#) that the government would not table the regional impact statement.

Orders with continuing effect

Agency advertising and public information projects

The Senate agreed to require all ministers in the Senate to table statements containing certain details of each advertising or public information project undertaken by portfolio agencies where the cost of the project is estimated or contracted to be \$100,000 or more (statements to be tabled within 5 sitting days of the Senate after project approval)—moved by Senators Murray and Faulkner

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Bali terrorist attacks](#)—Anniversary—Response to the Senate resolution (agreed to [9 October 2003](#)) from the Charge d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [2 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ The President made [a statement](#) relating to the control of bogong moths and the death of birdlife in the Parliamentary precincts. The [Senate debated](#) and agreed to take note of the statement.
- ❑ Government documents were discussed
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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