



Senate Daily Summary

Monday 1 March 2004

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.28pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ A New Tax System (Commonwealth-State Financial Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Corporate Law Economic Reform Program (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003
- ❑ Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003
- ❑ Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Rotterdam Convention) Bill 2004
- ❑ Industry Research and Development Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill 2003
- ❑ Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003
- ❑ Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2003
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Choice in Award Coverage) Bill 2004
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Simplifying Agreement-making) Bill 2004

The following bills were considered

- ❑ Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare) Bill 2003—second reading agreed to [details of the bill will be considered in committee of the whole on a future sitting day]
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Remedies for Unprotected Action) Bill 2002—second reading debate continued

The following bill was passed

With amendments

- ❑ Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003—[12 items omitted](#) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following message from the House of Representatives was considered

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Transmission of Business) Bill 2002–The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate. The Senate resolved not to insist on the amendments made by the Senate to which the House had disagreed, and agreed to [amendments](#) in place of those amendments. [The House of Representatives will now consider the new amendments]

Notice of motion given to introduce a bill

- Invasion of Iraq Royal Commission (Restoring Public Trust in Government) Bill 2004 [No. 2]–Notice of motion given by Senators Brown and Nettle [Private senators' bill]

Proclamations

[Proclamations](#) by the Governor-General were tabled announcing when particular provisions of Acts would commence

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

Additional information tabled

- Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)
 - Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee
 - Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Documents tabled

- Portfolio additional estimates statements–Corrigenda for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs portfolios

Reports tabled

- Effectiveness of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* in protecting small business–Economics References Committee
- Intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction–ASIO, ASIS, DSD Joint Committee
- State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2002]–Interim report–Legal and Constitutional References Committee
- Superannuation Safety Amendment Bill 2003–Economics Legislation Committee

Document tabled

- Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [No. 2] and Plastic Bag (Minimisation of Usage) Education Fund Bill 2002 [No. 2]—Corrigendum to report—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Membership

- The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) to committee membership
- The Senate [also agreed](#) that Senator Harris would be chosen to serve as a member of the Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America

Message from the House of Representatives reported

A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising that Dr Washer would replace Mr Johnson on the National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee

Reporting date

The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:

- State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2002]—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 3 March 2004

Notices of motion given

To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—3 March 2004 from 3.30pm—Corporations Amendment Regulations
- Legal and Constitutional References Committee—10 March 2004 from 4pm—Capacity of current legal aid and access to justice arrangements to meet the community need for legal assistance

To determine a reporting deadline

- Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003—Economics Legislation Committee—to report by 1 April 2004

To extend reporting deadlines

- Capacity of current legal aid and access to justice arrangements to meet the community need for legal assistance—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 31 March 2004
- Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—to report by 7 April 2004
- Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill 2003 and a related bill—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—to report by 22 March 2004
- Poverty and financial hardship—Community Affairs References Committee—to report by 11 March 2004

To refer a matter to a committee

- Draft import risk assessment of Filipino bananas and [related matters](#)—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—to report by 30 June 2004

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads tabled a ministerial statement by the Attorney-General and a related document about Australian Government national security measures since 11 September 2001

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Documents tabled

The Deputy President tabled copies of public submissions received by the National Health and Medical Research Council as part of its public consultation on the draft 8th Australian Immunisation Handbook [The documents were tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to [8 October 2003](#) on the motion of Senator Allison]

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

A statement of compliance for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio was tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; [Senate order](#) agreed to]

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]

A letter to the President of the Senate from the Australian National Audit Office concerning an audit of the tabling of details of departmental and agency contracts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2003 was also tabled

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General—[Reports Nos 29 to 31](#)—Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ Response to a Senate resolution about genetically modified crops from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (resolution agreed to [4 December 2003](#))
- ❑ [5 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ The President made [a statement](#) concerning questions made at question time which invite ministers to refer to the policies of other parties
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
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