



# Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 11 February 2004

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.30pm

## Legislation

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

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Superannuation Safety Amendment Bill 2003
- Taxation Laws (Clearing and Settlement Facility Support) Bill 2003
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

### The following bill was considered

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced (2 Opposition [amendments agreed to](#))

### The following bill was passed

#### *With amendments*

- Fisheries Legislation Amendment (High Seas Fishing Activities and Other Matters) Bill 2003 [2004]—1 Democrat [amendment agreed to](#) [The House of Representatives will now consider the bill as amended]

### The following message from the House of Representatives was considered

- Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill 2003—The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The Senate resolved to insist on its amendments. [The House of Representatives will now reconsider the amendments insisted on by 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 to disallow *defeated***

The Senate debated a motion to disallow new rule 77 in item [1] of Schedule 1 and new item 10990 in item [2] of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 2), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 318 and made under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*. The Senate agreed **not** to disallow the rule and item.

### **Notice of motion given**

A notice of motion was given to disallow the Fuel Quality Information Standard (Ethanol) Determination 2003, made under section 22A of the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000*—by Senator Allison

### **Notice of motion withdrawn**

A notice of motion to disallow the Migration Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 7), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 239 and made under the *Migration Act 1958* was withdrawn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](#)

### **Estimates**

#### *Additional information tabled*

- Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

#### *Advance to the Minister for Finance*

The Senate agreed to refer the following documents to legislation committees for examination and report:

- [Final budget](#) outcome 2002-03
- [Issues](#) from the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2003
- [Particulars](#) of proposed additional expenditure for 2003-2004 [the amounts contained in the appropriation bills]

The Senate also agreed to consider the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2003 in committee of the whole when legislation committees report on their examination of additional estimates

#### *Documents tabled [and see previous entry]*

- Particulars of proposed additional expenditure for 2002-03 [the amounts contained in the appropriation bills]

- Statement of savings expected in annual appropriations made by Act No. 55 of 2003

### **Reports tabled**

- Medicare Plus: The future for Medicare?—Second Report—Medicare Select Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 1](#) of 2004 and [1<sup>st</sup> report of 2004](#) [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 1](#) of 2004 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

### **Documents tabled**

- Consolidated register of Senate committee reports 1970-2001—2003 supplement
- Work of Committees—Year statistics: 1 January to 31 December 2003; and half-year statistics: 1 July to 31 December 2003

### **Establishment of a new committee**

The Senate agreed to establish a Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America—to report within 3 months after the text of the agreement is made publicly available, or on such later date as determined by the committee

### **Membership**

The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership

### **New inquiries**

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

### **Meetings**

#### *Public meetings*

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

- Economics Legislation Committee—12 February 2004 from 3.30pm to 7pm—Superannuation Safety Amendment Bill 2003

### **Reporting dates**

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

- Whether the *Trade Practices Act 1974* adequately protects small business—Economics References Committee—to report by 1 March 2004

### **Notices of motion given**

#### *To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting*

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—1 March 2004 from 4pm—The effectiveness of the Australian military justice system

*To extend reporting deadlines*

- Australian telecommunications network–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee–31 March 2004
- Select Committee on Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters–to report by 31 March 2004

*To refer a matter to a committee*

- [Electoral and political](#) funding and disclosure–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–to report by 30 June 2004

## Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to a motion moved by Senator Allison about the statement adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam during December 2003 relating to water

## Motions defeated

The Senate did not agree to a motion moved by Senator Brown calling on the Government to establish a judicial inquiry about intelligence relating to the Iraq conflict

## Notices of motion

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

## Orders for the production of documents

*Motion agreed to*

The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Trade to table the Free Trade Agreement made between the governments of Australia and the United States of America in February 2004 (no later than 5pm on 11 February 2004)–moved by Senator Brown. Later in the day, the Minister for Finance made a statement indicating that the Government would not table the Agreement.

## Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- [Government documents](#)
- [3 petitions](#) were received

**Also in the Senate yesterday**

- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Urgency debate about the detention of asylum seekers in Nauru
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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