The Senate met from 12.30pm until 8.35pm

**Budget 2004-05**

For Budget Papers, Portfolio Budget Statements and related sites click here

The Minister for Finance and Administration tabled the Budget documents for the year 2004-05 and associated budget papers and ministerial statements. The Opposition, minor parties and independent senators will make their responses to the Budget statement on Thursday 13 May 2004.

The Senate agreed to a motion by the Minister for Finance and Administration to refer documents to legislation committees to enable the committees to examine the proposed budget. This initiates the estimates hearings process. Portfolio budget statements and portfolio supplementary additional estimates statements for parliamentary and executive departments were also tabled.

**Privilege**

The President made a statement relating to a matter of privilege raised by Senators Knowles and Humphries concerning the unauthorised disclosure of a draft report of the Community Affairs References Committee and indicated that the committee had investigated the matter in accordance with the order of the Senate of 20 June 1996. Senator Mackay gave a notice of motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

**Procedural changes**

The Senate debated and agreed to recommendations made by two Procedure Committee reports.

The Procedure Committee’s First Report of 2004 made recommendations relating to: standing order 61 for the consideration of government documents; divisions called after 4.30pm on Thursdays; and the number of senators required to support a suspension of standing orders in relation to formal motions.

**Change in sitting hours**

The Senate agreed to a variation in sitting hours and routine of business for 13 May 2004

**Legislation**

For full text of bills and other associated documents click here

The following bills were introduced in the Senate
- Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment Bill 2004
- Surveillance Devices Bill 2004
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Award Simplification) Bill 2002

The following bill was passed

*With amendments*
- Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill (No. 2) 2004
  - (6 Opposition amendments agreed to) [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported
- [The bills will now be assented to]
  - Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the amendments made by the Senate to House amendments nos 6, 7 and 8
  - Health and Ageing Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [2004]–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment
  - Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Family Law) Bill 2002–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the amendments made by the Senate
  - Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the amendments made by the Senate

Assent to laws

Assent to a number of laws was reported in the Senate

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

11 May 2004
Delegated legislation
For a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes) click here

See the Documents section for details of instruments [Clerk’s documents] tabled

Committees
For scheduled public committee hearings click here
For committee reports click here

Estimates
The particulars of proposed expenditure for 2004-05 (the amounts contained in the appropriation bills) were referred to Senate legislation committees—to report by 17 June 2004

Reports tabled
- Anti-terrorism Bill 2004–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003–Interim Report–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Parliamentary delegation to the Solomon Islands, 17 and 18 December 2003–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill 2004–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Document tabled
- Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004–Economics Legislation Committee–Further additional information

Government response to committee report tabled
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–390th report–Review of the Auditor-General’s reports 2001-02: First, second and third quarters

Membership
The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership

New inquiry
The Senate agreed to the following new inquiry:
- Functioning of the Office of the Chief Scientist and potential conflicts of interest arising from the dual role of the Chief Scientist and related matters–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–to report by 24 June 2004

Reporting date
The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:
- 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 26 May 2004
**Notices of motion given**

*To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting*

- Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee–13 May 2004 from 3.30pm to 6pm–Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Amendment (Employee Involvement and Compliance) Bill 2002
- Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–12 May 2004 from 4.30pm–Migration Amendment (Judicial Review) Bill 2004
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–12 May 2004 from 4pm–Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–13 May 2004 from 4pm to 6pm–administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for bananas

*To extend reporting deadlines*

- Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the Margaret J–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 5 August 2004
- Forestry plantations–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by 24 June 2004
- Rural water resource usage–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by 12 August 2004

*To refer a matter to a committee*

- Mistreatment of prisoners detained under the control of the United States of America or its coalition partners in Iraq, Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay and related matters–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–to report by 23 June 2004

**Motions agreed to**

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- **Human rights abuses in Iraq**–moved by Senators Bartlett and Stott Despoja (as a matter of urgency)
- **Nuclear non-proliferation**–moved by Senator Allison

**Notices of motion**

For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here

**Orders for the production of documents**

**Orders with continuing effect**

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

A statement of compliance for the Australian Taxation Office 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
A statement of compliance for the Transport and Regional Services portfolio was
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]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:
- Auditor-General–Reports Nos 39 to 45 of 2003-04–Presented since the last sitting
  of the Senate
- Clerk’s documents [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be
  tabled]
- Government documents
- Government document presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- 9 petitions were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- The President tabled the original certificate of the choice by the Parliament of
  Victoria of Mitchell Fifield to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of
  Senator Alston
- 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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