



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 24 March 2004

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.31pm

Privilege

The Senate agreed to refer to the Committee of Privileges [a matter of privilege](#) concerning whether any false or misleading evidence was given by witnesses representing Telstra in relation to the matter of the network fault rate and deterioration of the network, and whether any contempt was committed in that regard

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Dairy Produce Amendment Bill 2003
- Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2004

The following bills were considered

- Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced
- Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced

No bills were passed

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

- Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004
- Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004
- Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2004
- Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004

Assent to law

Assent to the *Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare) Act 2004* 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](#)

Regulation disallowed

The Senate *agreed to disallow* Schedule 3, items [1] to [4], [6], [8] and [9] of the Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 8), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 282 and made under the *Corporations Act 2001*

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

Reports tabled

- 2003-04 additional estimates—[Six legislation committees](#)

Reports tabled

- Annual reports referred to legislation committees—Community Affairs Legislation Committee
- Corporations Amendment Regulations—Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee
- Cybercrime—Australian Crime Commission Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—Alert Digest [No. 4](#) of 2004 and [3rd](#) and [4th](#) reports of 2004 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report](#) No. 5 of 2004 [report adopted] [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003—Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to discharge Senator Cook and appoint Senator Hutchins to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

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

Reporting date

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

- Additional estimates 2003-04—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee—to report by 25 March 2004

Notices of motion

To establish a new committee

- [Select Committee on the Lindberg Grievance](#) on whether any false or misleading evidence was given to the Select Committee on Public Interest Whistleblowing, the Select Committee on Unresolved Whistleblower Cases or the Committee of Privileges in respect of matters considered in its 63rd and 71st reports and [related matters](#)—to report by 5 October 2004

To refer matters to a committee

- ❑ The Government's responses to the Scrutiny of Bills Committee's Fourth Report of 2000: *Entry and Search Provisions in Commonwealth Legislation* and [related matters](#)—Scrutiny of Bills Committee—to report by first sitting day in 2005

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- ❑ [Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mr Keelty](#): and also ministerial staff and recommendations of the Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee report into staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*—moved by Senators Faulkner and Bartlett
- ❑ [Benita Johnson](#)—moved by Senators Ridgeway, Kemp and Lundy
- ❑ [Education funding](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- ❑ [HECS scheme](#) and university funding—moved by Senator Stott Despoja

Motion defeated

A [motion](#) moved by Senator Nettle concerning university tuition fees was defeated

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

Senator Forshaw asked the Minister representing the Minister for Science for [an explanation](#) for an answer not being provided to question on notice no. 2453 concerning the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. The Minister was not in the chamber and an explanation was not provided.

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

- ❑ The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer to table the document detailing the actual total revenue collected during the 2002-03 financial year from the measure “allowing departing temporary residents access to their superannuation” referred to on pages 1 to 25 of the document *Budget strategy and outlook 2002-03* (Budget Paper No. 1) (no later than 5pm on 24 March 2004)—moved by Senator Sherry. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [made a statement](#) later in the day indicating that the Government would not comply with the order.

- ❑ The Senate [ordered](#) the Leader of the Government in the Senate to table copies of all drafts of the clarifying statement which was negotiated between the Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mr Keelty, and the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Dr Shergold, and any other members or representatives of the Government and which was issued by the Commissioner on Tuesday 16 March 2004 (no later than 4pm on 30 March 2004)—moved by Senator Faulkner

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

Statements of compliance for [two agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; [Senate order](#) agreed to]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General—Audit report no. 35 for 2003-04—Business support process audit—Compensation payments and debt relief in special circumstances
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ Parliamentary zone—proposal and documentation relating to the extension of approval for the temporary vehicle barriers around Parliament House to remain until 31 March 2005. [A notice of motion](#) was also given to approve the proposal.
- ❑ [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](#) concerning the appointment of a parliamentary librarian
- ❑ Adjournment debate

* * * * *

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

Enquiries, comments and suggestions: phone 6277 3209

e-mail: sue.blunden@aph.gov.au

This publication is issued by the Senate Procedure Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the *Journals of the Senate*, copies of which may be obtained from the Senate Table Office (phone: 6277 3010) or on the Internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/index.htm>.