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

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:

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


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

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