



# Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 10 March 2005

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.05pm

## Legislation

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

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2004-2005
- Appropriation (Tsunami Financial Assistance) Bill 2004-2005
- Appropriation (Tsunami Financial Assistance and Australia-Indonesia Partnership) Bill 2004-2005
- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2004-2005
- Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2004-2005
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Amendment Bill 2005
- Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2005

### The following bill was considered

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004 [2005]—second reading debate continued [together with debate on [a second reading amendment](#) moved by the Opposition, Democrats and Australian Greens expressing a view about the bill's policy]

### The following bills were passed

#### *With amendments*

- Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-Siphoning) Bill 2004—2 Opposition amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]
- Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2005—3 Opposition [amendments](#) agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the bill as amended by the Senate]

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

- National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2005—The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]

### Notice of motion given

*To exempt bills from the cut-off order* [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ Appropriation (Tsunami Financial Assistance) Bill 2004-2005
- ❑ Appropriation (Tsunami Financial Assistance and Australia-Indonesia Partnership) Bill 2004-2005

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 [Clerk's documents] tabled

### Committees

For scheduled public committee hearings [click here](#)

For committee reports [click here](#)

### Estimates

*Additional information tabled*

- ❑ Budget estimates 2004-05–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

### Reports tabled

- ❑ A lost opportunity? Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004 and related bills and matters–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee
- ❑ Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons Offences) Bill 2004 [2005]–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- ❑ Indigenous education–Interim report–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

### Government responses to committee reports tabled

- ❑ Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee–CLERP (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003–Parts 1 and 2
- ❑ Economics References Committee–Public liability and professional indemnity insurance
- ❑ Finance and Public Administration References Committee–Recruitment and training in the Australian Public Service
- ❑ Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–391<sup>st</sup> report–Review of independent auditing by registered company auditors

### Statement

Senator Watson made [a statement](#) about the nomination of a new Commonwealth Auditor-General, pursuant to subsection 8A(7) of the *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951*.

### **Membership**

The Senate agreed to the following changes and appointments to committee membership:

- ❑ Economics Legislation Committee—Senator Lundy to replace Senator Webber for the committee’s inquiry into the Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2005
- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Senator Bartlett to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee’s inquiry into duties of Australian personnel in Iraq
- ❑ Mental Health Select Committee—Senators Forshaw, Humphries, Moore, Scullion, Troeth and Webber appointed
- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Senator Bartlett to replace Senator Cherry for the committee’s inquiry into the Border Protection Legislation Amendment (Deterrence of Illegal Foreign Fishing) Bill 2005

### **Motion to refer a matter to a committee defeated**

The Senate defeated [a motion](#) by Senator Brown to refer the matter of Australian involvement in rendition and the practice of torture overseas to the Legal and Constitutional References Committee

### **Notice of motion given**

*To refer a matter to a committee*

- ❑ [Performance of the Australian](#) telecommunications regulatory regime and related matters—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by 23 June 2005

## **Motions agreed to**

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- ❑ [Colombia](#)—human rights—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- ❑ [Nuclear Non-proliferation](#) Treaty Review conference—moved by Senator Allison

## **Ministerial statement**

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [tabled](#) a ministerial statement and annual statement about Australia’s development cooperation program. The Senate debated a motion (moved by [Senator Nettle](#)) to take note of the statements. The motion was agreed to.

## **Motion debated**

The Senate debated a motion moved by Senator Ludwig about the Australian economy [[link to first speaker](#)]

## **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 tabling of a report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) concerning the competition notice issued to Telstra by the ACCC on 19 March 2004 and the decision of the ACCC to resolve the matter without litigation (no later than 3.30pm on 17 March 2005)—moved by Senator Conroy
- [The Senate ordered](#) the tabling of a report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) giving details about the agreement made with Telstra to deal with certain matters following the issue of the competition notice to Telstra by the ACCC on 19 March 2004 (no later than 3.30pm on 10 May 2005)—moved by Senator Conroy

### **Orders with continuing effect**

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

Statements of compliance for the Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio agencies and the Official Secretary to the Governor-General 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 reports](#) nos 37 and 38 of 2004-05
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

No petitions were received

No government documents were tabled

## Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed
- Adjournment debate [[link to first speaker](#)]

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