



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 7 December 2006

The Senate met from 9.30am until 11.09pm

The Senate has now completed its sittings for 2006 and will commence the autumn sittings on [6 February 2007](#)

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The Senate agreed to a [motion](#) moved by the Minister for Justice and Customs to limit debate on various bills.

The following bills were introduced

- Electoral and Referendum Legislation Amendment Bill 2006 [passed by the House of Representatives on 6 December 2006]
- Law and Justice Legislation Amendment (Marking of Plastic Explosives) Bill 2006 [passed by the House of Representatives on 6 December 2006]
- Migration Amendment (Review Provisions) Bill 2006 [new Senate bill]
- Pregnancy Counselling (Truth in Advertising) Bill 2006—introduced by Senators Stott Despoja, Troeth, Carol Brown and Nettle [private senators' bill]
- Removal of Recognition of US Military Commissions (David Hicks) Bill 2006—introduced by Senators Nettle and Bob Brown [private senators' bill]

The following bills were passed

- Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Bill 2006 and a related bill [These bills will now be assented to]
- Customs Legislation Amendment (New Zealand Rules of Origin) Bill 2006 [This bill will now be assented to]
- Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2006 [This bill will now be assented to]
- Royal Commissions Amendment (Records) Bill 2006 [This bill will now be assented to]
- Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 2006 [The House of Representatives agreed to the bill without amendment and it will now be assented to]

Notice of motion

To introduce a bill

- Food Safety (Trans Fats) Bill 2006—notice given by Senator Nettle [private senator's bill]

Messages from the House of Representatives

Reported

- Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction and the Regulation of Human Embryo Research Amendment Bill 2006—agreeing to the bill without amendment [This bill will now be assented to]

Considered

- Crimes Amendment (Bail and Sentencing) Bill 2006—agreeing to the bill with amendments. The Senate agreed to the amendments made by the House [This bill will now be assented to]

Bills assented to

[Assent](#) to a number of laws was reported in the Senate

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

See [Documents](#) for details of instruments [Clerk's documents] tabled

Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)
[For committee reports](#)

Estimates

Additional information arising from estimates hearings was tabled:

- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee—additional and supplementary budget estimates 2005-06 and budget and supplementary budget estimates 2006-07
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee—budget estimates 2004-05 and budget and supplementary budget 2006-07
- Finance and Public Administration Committee—supplementary budget and additional estimates 2005-06 and budget and supplementary budget estimates 2006-07
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—supplementary budget estimates 2006-07

Reports tabled

- Economics Committee—[Petrol prices in Australia](#). This report was debated [[first speaker](#)]
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee—[Blue water ships](#): Consolidating past achievements. This report was debated [[first speaker](#)]
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—[Review](#) of Australia-New Zealand trade and investment relations
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—[Unfinished business](#): Indigenous stolen wages. This report was debated [[first speaker](#)]
- Publications Committee—[18th Report](#) [report adopted]
- Treaties Joint Committee—[Report no. 82](#)—Treaty tabled on 28 November 2006

Documents tabled

Additional information was tabled in relation to the following inquiries:

- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee—
 - Independent Contractors Bill 2006 and a related bill
 - Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Legislation Amendment Bill 2006

Government responses tabled

Government responses to the following documents were tabled

- [Legal and Constitutional References Committee](#)—They still call Australia home: Inquiry into Australian expatriates
- [President's report of 22 June 2006](#) on government responses outstanding to parliamentary committee reports

President's report on government responses tabled

- [President's report to the Senate](#) on government responses outstanding to parliamentary committee reports as at 7 December 2006

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee Reports

The Senate adopted reports [15](#) and [16](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- Airports Amendment Bill 2006—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 26 February 2007
- Airspace Bill 2006 and a related bill—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 26 February 2007
- Australian Technical Colleges (Flexibility in Achieving Australia's Skills Needs) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2006—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee—to report by 20 February 2007
- Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment (Superannuation Contributions) Bill 2006—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 8 February 2007
- Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill 2006—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee—to report by 29 March 2007

- Crimes Legislation Amendment (National Investigative Powers and Witness Protection) Bill 2006—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 7 February 2007
- Customs Legislation Amendment (Augmenting Offshore Powers and Other Measures) Bill 2006—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 8 February 2007
- Electoral and Referendum Legislation Amendment Bill 2006—Finance and Public Administration Committee—to report by 20 February 2007
- Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work and Vocational Rehabilitation Services) Bill 2006—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee—to report by 20 February 2007
- Migration Amendment (Review Provisions) Bill 2006—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 20 February 2007
- Murray-Darling Basin Amendment Bill 2006—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 26 February 2007
- Native Title Amendment Bill 2006—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 23 February 2007
- Non-Proliferation Legislation Amendment Bill 2006—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee—to report by 8 February 2007
- Private Health Insurance Bill 2006 and 6 related bills—Community Affairs Committee—to report by 26 February 2007
- Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee—to report by 20 February 2007
- Tax Laws Amendment (Simplified Superannuation) Bill 2006 and 5 related bills—Economics Committee—to report by 6 February 2007

Reporting date extended

The Senate agreed to extend the reporting date for the inquiry of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee into Australia's future oil supply to 6 February 2007.

Notice of motion given

A [notice of motion](#) was given by Senators Siewert and Milne to refer matters relating to the impact of climate change on Australian agricultural industries to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for report by 30 June 2007.

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

[Senator Bob Brown](#) asked the Minister representing the Prime Minister why answers had not been provided to questions on notice nos 2523 to 2543 asked on 4 October 2006 relating to the Exclusive Brethren. [The Minister](#) indicated that an explanation would be provided. A [motion](#) to take note of the Minister's response was agreed to.

Other debates and motions

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty](#)—moved by Senator Allison
- [Season's greetings](#)—moved by Senator Bob Brown

The Senate *did not agree* to motions about:

- [Cigarettes and bushfire risk](#)—moved by Senator Allison
- [Iraq](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- [Mr David Hicks](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- [Mr David Hicks](#)—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- [Weed eradication research](#)—moved by Senator Milne
- [Wetlands and floodplain areas](#) in the Murray-Darling basin—moved by Senator Nettle

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion defeated

A [motion](#) moved by Senator Milne to require the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation to table correspondence between the federal government and the government of Tasmania concerning the protection of old-growth forests in the Styx and Florentine valleys was defeated.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—[Audit report no. 14](#) of 2006-07
- [Clerk's documents](#) [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Expenditure on travel by former Governors-General paid by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet—1 January to 30 June 2006
- Former parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration—1 January to 30 June 2006
- Parliamentarians' overseas study travel reports—1 January to 30 June 2006
- Parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration—1 January to 30 June 2006
- Department of Defence—Special purpose flights—January to June 2006
- [7 petitions](#)

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time [[first question](#)]
- ❑ Valedictory speeches [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Adjournment debate [[first speaker](#)]

Statistics

Statistics on the work of the Senate this week will be available in the [Statistical Summary](#), which forms part of [StatsNet](#)—the Department of the Senate’s online statistical collection.

If you are interested in more information relating to the work of the Senate, the publication *Business of the Senate*, which is due to be tabled on 6 February 2007, is also available on StatsNet.

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Online

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

It is issued by the Senate Table 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*, on the Internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/index.htm>

Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or ‘Senate Red’) and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate

Contact details

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