



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday, 9 May 2007

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.46pm

Budget 2007-08

Budget Papers, Portfolio Budget Statements and related sites <www.budget.gov.au>

The Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin) tabled the [Budget statement](#) for the year 2007-08 and associated budget papers and ministerial statements. The Opposition and minor parties will make their responses to the Budget statement on Thursday, 10 May 2007.

The Senate [referred](#) budget documents to committees to enable them to consider estimates. Estimates hearings will take place from 21 May to 31 May 2007.

Portfolio budget statements and portfolio supplementary additional estimates statements for [parliamentary](#) and [executive](#) departments were also tabled.

Legislation

Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2007 and a related bill [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 May 2007]
- Education Services for Overseas Students Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 29 March 2007]
- Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment (Child Support Reform Consolidation and Other Measures) Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 May 2007]
- Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2007 Measures No. 1) Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 28 March 2007]
- Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 2) Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 May 2007]

The following bills were debated

- Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2007 and a related bill—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were passed

- Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2007 [The House of Representatives will now consider this bill]
- Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2007 Measures No. 1) Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]
- Migration Amendment (Maritime Crew) Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]

Notices of motion

To introduce a bill

- Peace Commission and Non-Violence Bill 2007—notice given by the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) [private senator's bill]

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

- Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments and Other 2007 Budget Measures) Bill 2007
- Superannuation Laws Amendment (2007 Budget Co-contribution Measure) Bill 2007

Messages from the House of Representatives

Agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bills:

- Airports Amendment Bill 2006
- Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006
- Tax Laws Amendment (2006 Measures No. 7) Bill 2006
[These bills will now be assented to]

Bills assented to

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

See **Committees** for details of reports relating to legislation

Delegated legislation

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

Notice of motion withdrawn

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Watson) withdrew a [notice of motion](#) to disallow an [instrument](#) that nominates an agreement for the purposes of Special Disability Trusts.

See **Documents** for details of instruments [Clerk's documents] tabled

Committees

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

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2007 and a related bill—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee—[Interim report](#) and [report](#)
- [Corporations](#) (NZ Closer Economic Relations) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007—Economics Committee
- [Families](#), Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment (Child Support Reform Consolidation and Other Measures) Bill 2007—Community Affairs Committee
- [Food Standards](#) Australia New Zealand Amendment Bill 2007—Community Affairs Committee
- [Gene Technology](#) Amendment Bill 2007—Community Affairs Committee
- [Higher Education](#) Legislation Amendment (2007 Measures No. 1) Bill 2007—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
- [Liquid Fuel](#) Emergency Amendment Bill 2007—Economics Committee
- [Migration Amendment](#) (Maritime Crew) Bill 2007—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
- [Native Title](#) Amendment (Technical Amendments) Bill 2007—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
- [Tax Laws Amendment](#) (2007 Measures No. 2) Bill 2007—Economics Committee—Interim report and report

Other reports

- Appropriations and Staffing Committee—44th report—Estimates for the Department of the Senate for 2007-08
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee—[Conserving Australia](#): Australia's national parks, conservation reserves and marine protected areas
- Intelligence and Security Joint Committee—[Review](#) of the re-listing of Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (the al-Zarqawi network) as a terrorist organisation
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 5](#) of 2007 and [5th report](#) of 2007 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]

Government response tabled

A [government response](#) to a report of the Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee on corporate governance and accountability arrangements for Commonwealth government business enterprises was tabled.

Public meetings

The Senate authorised the following public meetings to be held while the Senate was sitting on 9 May 2007:

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—from 11.30am to 1.30pm—Financial reporting and equipment acquisition at the Department of Defence and the Defence Materiel Organisation
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—from 4.00pm—Administration of Biosecurity Australia

Notices of motion given

To extend a reporting deadline

- Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill 2006—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee—to report by 31 May 2007

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting:

- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee—10 May 2007 from 1.00pm—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—13 June 2007 from 11.30am to 1.00pm—financial reporting and equipment acquisition at the Department of Defence and the Defence Materiel Organisation

Membership

The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) to committee membership.

Message from the House of Representatives

A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising that Mr Baird, Mrs May and Mrs Hull had been appointed to the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity Joint Committee.

Documents

Orders for the production of documents—Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

Statements of compliance for [two agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Documents tabled

- Auditor-General—[Audit reports](#) nos 32 to 35 of 2006-07
- [Clerk's documents](#) [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled, including Governor-General's Proclamations]

- [Communiqué](#) from the Twelfth National Schools Constitutional Convention held at Old Parliament House from 21 to 23 March 2007
- [Government documents](#) [[and considered](#)]
- [Government documents](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- [Response](#) from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (Mr Blair) to a [resolution](#) of the Senate about Northern Ireland [[resolution agreed to 28 March 2007](#)]
- [7 petitions](#)

Other business

Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—[first question](#)

Matters of public interest debate—[first speaker](#)

Adjournment debate—[first speaker](#)

Motions agreed to

- [Death of Mr Iccho Itoh](#), Mayor of Nagasaki—moved by the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
- [United Nations General Assembly](#) resolution on sustainable fisheries—moved by Senator Siewert

Motions negated

- [Guantanamo Bay](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- [Old-growth forests](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Student income support](#)—moved by Senator Stott Despoja

Motion debated

The Senate discussed [issues](#) relating to the 2007 Federal Budget, raised by Senator Sherry as a matter of public importance. [[first speaker](#)]

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

Former Clerk of the Senate

The President [informed the Senate](#) of the death on 14 April 2007 of Alan Ritchie Cumming Thom, former Clerk of the Senate.

Appointment of Whips

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Minchin) informed the Senate of the appointment of Senator Parry as Government Whip and Senator McGauran as Deputy Government Whip. The Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding) informed the Senate that he had been appointed as Family First Party Whip.

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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

Inquiries, comments and suggestions: phone 6277 3015
e-mail: sds@aph.gov.au