



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 10 May 2007

The Senate met from 9.30am until 9.44pm

The Senate will meet again on 12 June 2007. Senate committees will meet from 21 to 31 May 2007 to examine [budget estimates](#).

Budget 2007-08

[Budget Papers, Portfolio Budget Statements and related sites <www.budget.gov.au>](#)

The Leaders of the [Australian Democrats](#), [Australian Greens](#) and [Family First](#) parties made their responses to the Budget statement and documents.

Legislation

[Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>](#)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Health Insurance Amendment (Inappropriate and Prohibited Practices and Other Measures) Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 May 2007]
- ❑ Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments and Other 2007 Budget Measures) Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 May 2007]
- ❑ Superannuation Laws Amendment (2007 Budget Co-contribution Measure) Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 May 2007]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in 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

The following bill was debated

- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 2) Bill 2007—Second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2007 and a related bill [These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Education Services for Overseas Students Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Governance Review Implementation (Treasury Portfolio Agencies) Bill 2007–
[1 Government amendment](#) agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]
- ❑ Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Amendment Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments and Other 2007 Budget Measures) Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Superannuation Laws Amendment (2007 Budget Co-contribution Measure) Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]

Delegated legislation

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

Motion to disallow defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to a [motion](#) moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) which would have disallowed Amendments [56](#), [59](#), [60](#) and [61](#) of the National Capital Plan made under section 19 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*. [[first speaker](#)]

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

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Estimates

The following additional information arising from estimates hearings was tabled:

- ❑ Community Affairs Committee–2006-07 budget and additional estimates
- ❑ Economics Committee–2006-07 additional estimates
- ❑ Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee–2005-06 and 2006-07 supplementary budget and additional estimates
- ❑ Finance and Public Administration Committee–2005-06 supplementary budget and additional estimates and 2006-07 budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee–2006-07 additional estimates
- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee–2006-07 supplementary budget and additional estimates

Reports tabled

- ❑ Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–[Oral report](#) on the budget estimates for the Australian National Audit Office for 2007-08
- ❑ Publications Committee–[21st Report](#) [report adopted]

Document tabled

- ❑ Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2007 Measures No. 1) Bill 2007–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee–Additional remarks by Australian Labor Party Senators

Government responses tabled

[Government responses](#) to the following reports were tabled

- ❑ Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee–The value of water: Inquiry into Australia’s management of urban water. The response was debated [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2006

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee reports

The Senate adopted reports [7](#) and [8](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- ❑ A Bill for an Act to Amend the Workplace Relations Act 1996, and for related purposes (Stronger Safety Net)–upon its introduction in the House of Representatives to be referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee–to report by 14 June 2007
- ❑ Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Amendment Bill 2007–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee–to report by 12 June 2007
- ❑ Communications Legislation Amendment (Content Services) Bill 2007–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee–to report by 12 June 2007
- ❑ Forestry Marketing and Research and Development Services Bill 2007 and a related bill–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee–to report by 12 June 2007
- ❑ Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2007–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee–to report by 12 June 2007
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 3) Bill 2007–Economics Committee–to report by 6 June 2007
- ❑ Workplace Relations (Restoring Family Work Balance) Amendment Bill 2007–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee–to report by 14 June 2007

Meetings during Senate sittings

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while 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

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2007—to report by 15 June 2007
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee— Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill 2006—to report by 31 May 2007

Notice of motion given

A notice of motion was given to authorise the Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee to hold a public meeting while the Senate is sitting on 12 June 2007 from 4.30pm to take evidence for the committee's continuing oversight of the operations of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

Membership

The Senate agreed that Senator Moore replace Senator Wortley on the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee on 6 June 2007.

Documents

Documents tabled

- [Clerk's document](#) [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Original certificates of the choice by the Parliament of Queensland of Suzanne Kay Boyce, and the Parliament of South Australia of Simon John Birmingham to fill the vacancies in the representation in those states

Other business

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

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

[Senator Marshall](#) asked the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Abetz) why answers had not been provided to 689 questions placed on notice during the consideration of the 2006-07 supplementary budget estimates and the 2006-07 additional estimates by the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee. [The Minister](#) provided an explanation.

Motions agreed to

- [Indigenous Australians](#)—moved by Senators Bartlett and Siewert
- [Parenting by grandparents](#)—moved by Senator Stephens
- [Senator Watson](#)—moved by Senator Joyce

