



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday, 14 October 2008

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.34pm

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Financial Transaction Reports Amendment (Transitional Arrangements) Bill 2008
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill (No. 2) 2008
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Political Contributions and Gifts) Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 October 2008]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings]

- ❑ Migration Amendment (Notification Review) Bill 2008
- ❑ Migration Legislation Amendment (Worker Protection) Bill 2008
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill (No. 2) 2008

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Migration Amendment (Notification Review) Bill 2008 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Safe Work Australia Bill 2008—[7 Opposition amendments](#) agreed to, 1 subclause negatived [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]
Safe Work Australia (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2008 [This bill will now be assented to]

Change to hours of meeting

The Senate agreed to vary the [hours of meeting](#) for 14 October 2008 to enable the Government's legislative program to be considered.

See *Committees* for details of reports relating to legislation

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- [Independent Reviewer](#) of Terrorism Laws Bill 2008 [No. 2]—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee [A motion to take note of the report was [debated](#)]
- [National Fuelwatch](#) (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and a related bill—Economics Committee
- [Same-Sex Relationships](#) (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—General Law Reform) Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
- [Same-Sex Relationships](#) (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008, and related bills introduced to give effect to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's report *Same Sex: Same Entitlements* and related matters—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Other reports

- Intelligence and Security Joint Committee—
 - [Annual report](#) of committee activities 2007-2008
 - [Review](#) of the re-listing of Al-Qa'ida, Jemaah Islamiyah and Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of Islamic Maghreb
- Procedure Committee—[Second report of 2008](#)—Questions to chairs of committees and other senators

Documents tabled

- Community Affairs Committee—Draft National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits — Charges) Regulations 2008—Additional information

Transfer of reference to another committee

The Senate agreed to transfer the inquiry of the Economics Committee into residential and community aged care in Australia to the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Public meetings

The Senate authorised the following public meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee–16 October 2008 from 10.00am–Academic freedom in school and higher education
- Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee–16 October 2008 from 4.30pm–Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- Economics Committee–
 - Australia’s mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme–to report by 13 November 2008
 - Australia’s space science and industry sector–to report by 12 November 2008
 - Disclosure regimes for charities and not-for-profit organisations–to report by 4 December 2008
- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee–Academic freedom in school and higher education–to report by 27 November 2008
- Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee–
 - Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008–to report by 4 December 2008
 - Effectiveness of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and other programs in protecting threatened species and ecological communities–to report by the last sitting day of February 2009

Notice of motion given

A notice of motion was given to authorise the Community Affairs Committee to hold a public meeting while the Senate is sitting on 16 October 2008 from 3.30pm for the committee’s inquiries into the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, the Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and the ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008.

Documents

Delegated legislation

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

- [Clerk’s documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

Orders for the production of documents–Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency appointments

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Departmental and agency grants

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Documents tabled

- [Government documents](#)
- [A petition](#)

Other business

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

Motions agreed to

- [Death of Ms Britt Laphorne](#)—moved by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
- [First spacewalk](#) by the People's Republic of China—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Traveston Crossing Dam](#) and Australian lungfish—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [World Sight Day](#)—moved by Senator Siewert

Motions negated

- [Anti-Poverty Week](#)—moved by Senator Siewert
- [Government intervention](#) in financial markets—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

Death of former member

The Deputy President informed the Senate of the death on 30 September 2008 of Stephen Edward Calder, a member of the House of Representatives for the division of Northern Territory from 1966 to 1980. Senator Scullion made a [statement](#) relating to Mr Calder.

Notices of motion

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

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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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