



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday, 17 June 2008

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 11.41pm

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bill was introduced

- ❑ Crimes Legislation Amendment (Enhanced Child Protection from Predatory Tourism Offences) Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]

The following bills were debated

- ❑ First Home Saver Accounts Bill 2008 and 2 related bills—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and a related bill—second reading agreed to [[first speaker](#)] [details of the bills will be considered on a future sitting day]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2008 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 2) Bill 2008—[3 Government amendments](#) agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following bill was discharged from the Notice Paper

- ❑ Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008

Change to days and hours of meeting

The Senate agreed to vary the [days and hours](#) of meeting for the remainder of the fortnight to allow the Government's legislative program to be considered.

Notice of motion

To introduce a private senator's bill

- ❑ Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008—notice given by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)

Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

Report tabled

- Electoral Matters Joint Committee—Schedule 1 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008—Advisory report

New inquiry

- [Petrol sniffing](#) in central Australia—Community Affairs Committee—to report by 16 October 2008

Proposed references

The following [proposals](#) to refer matters to committees were debated:

- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Electoral Matters Joint Committee—to report on 30 June 2009 in conjunction with the inquiry into the 2007 federal election
- Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and a related bill—Economics Committee—to report not before 26 August 2008
- National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and a related bill—Economics Committee—to report not before 29 September 2008
- National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008—Community Affairs Committee—to report not before 18 August 2008
- Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
- Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill 2008—Schedules 1 and 2—Economics Committee—to report not before 18 August 2008
- Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008 and 3 related bills—Economics Committee—to report not before 26 August 2008
- Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008—Economics Committee—to report not before 26 August 2008

[debate on these motions will continue on the next sitting day]

The following proposals to refer matters to committees were withdrawn, pending a report of the Selection of Bills Committee:

- [Families, Housing](#), Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Finance and Public Administration Committee
- [Passenger Movement](#) Charge Amendment Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
- [Tax Laws Amendment](#) (Budget Measures) Bill 2008—Economics Committee

Public meetings

The Senate authorised the Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee to hold public meetings while the Senate is sitting on 18 June 2008 and 25 June 2008 from 11.00am to 1.30pm to take evidence for the committee's review of Auditor-General's reports.

Reporting date established

The Senate established a reporting date of 28 August 2008 for the inquiry of the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee into waste management in Australia and the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008.

Notice of motion given

A notice of motion was given to authorise the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee to hold a public meeting while the Senate is sitting on 20 June 2008 from 9.15am for the committee's inquiry into the review of reforms to Australia's military justice system by the Australian Defence Force.

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

Motion agreed to

The Senate [ordered](#) that documents detailing commitments made by the government during the election period to provide grants for sports and recreation facilities be tabled by 5.00pm on 23 June 2008.

Documents tabled

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

Other business

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

Motions agreed to

- [Legal action against whaling](#)—moved by Senator Siewert
- [Opposition to rates of excise](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Remote area nurses](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)

