



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday, 19 March 2008

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.55pm

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 19 March 2008]
- ❑ Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Repeal Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 19 March 2008]
- ❑ Statute Law Revision Bill 2008 [new Senate bill]
- ❑ Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008 [new Senate bill]

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

- ❑ Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2008
- ❑ Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Repeal Bill 2008
- ❑ Tradex Scheme Amendment Bill 2008

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2007-2008
Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2007-2008
–[second reading debate](#) continued [The Australian Democrats moved a [second reading amendment](#)]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Infrastructure Australia Bill 2008–1 Australian Democrats and 5 Opposition amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate—see Journals entries nos [5](#) and [26](#)]

The following bills were defeated by a majority vote

- ❑ Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment Bill 2008 and a related bill—defeated at the second reading

Notice of motion

To introduce a bill

- A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Improved access to baby bonus) Amendment Bill 2008—notice given by Senator Stott Despoja [private senator's bill]

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

- Public Works Joint Committee—
 - [1st report](#) of 2008—71st annual report
 - [2nd report](#) of 2008—HMAS *Creswell* redevelopment, Jervis Bay Territory
 - [3rd report](#) of 2008—Land Engineering Agency test services relocation, Monegeetta, Victoria
 - [4th report](#) of 2008—Refurbishment of staff apartments, Australian Embassy complex, Tokyo, Japan
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 2](#) of 2008 and [2nd report](#) of 2008 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted [report no. 3](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008—Economics Committee—to report by 16 September 2008
- Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008—Community Affairs Committee—to report by 7 May 2008
- Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 30 April 2008
- Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 1 May 2008

Other references

- Australia's mandatory [Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme](#)—Economics Committee—to report by May 2008
- [Australia's space science](#) and industry sector—Economics Committee—to report by October 2008
- [Meat marketing](#)—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 4 September 2008

- Provisions of Schedule 1 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008—Electoral Matters Joint Committee—to report by June 2009

Establishment of select committee

The Senate established the Select Committee on [Remote Indigenous Communities](#).

Notices of motion given

To extend a reporting deadline

- State Government Financial Management Select Committee—to report by 27 August 2008

To refer matters to committees

- [Broadcasting Code of Conduct](#)—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 9 June 2008
- [Management of Australia's waste streams](#)—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by August 2008
- Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 7 May 2008

To enable a committee to use earlier records

- Economics Committee to have power to consider and use records from the previous Parliament relating to its consideration of an earlier version of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008

Membership

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

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

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

A statement of compliance for the Veterans' Affairs portfolio was 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]

