



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 25 September 2008

The Senate met from 9.30am until 6.43pm

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Further 2008 Budget and Other measures) Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 25 September 2008]
- ❑ International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 24 September 2008]

The following bill was debated

- ❑ Save Our Solar (Solar Rebate Protection) Bill 2008 [No. 2]—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ AusLink (National Land Transport) Amendment Bill 2008
- ❑ Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2008
- ❑ Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and a related bill—messages were reported advising that the House had made the [amendments](#) requested by the Senate—the bills were read a [third time](#)
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008—a message was reported advising that the House had made the amendments requested by the Senate—the third reading of the bill was [debated](#) and agreed to [These bills will now be assented to]

Change to routine of business

The Senate agreed to vary the routine of business for 25 September 2008 to allow the Government's legislative program to be considered [see Journals entries nos [25](#) and [46](#)].

Message to the House of Representatives

A motion moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) requiring the Senate to send a message to the House of Representatives requesting that the House immediately consider the Urgent Relief for Single Age Pensioners Bill 2008 was agreed to.

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

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Estimates

[Additional information](#) arising from estimates hearings was tabled.

Reports tabled

Report on legislation

- [Evidence Amendment Bill 2008](#)—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Other reports

- Community Affairs Committee—[Towards recovery](#): Mental health services in Australia [a motion to take note of the report was [debated](#)]
- Publications Committee—[5th Report](#) [report adopted]

Documents tabled

- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Additional information
- Senators' Interests Committee—[Various registers](#) of interests and gifts

[Government responses](#) tabled

- Community Affairs Committee—Workplace exposure to toxic dust
- Electoral Matters Joint Committee—Review of certain aspects of the administration of the Australian Electoral Commission
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—
 - An appropriate level of protection? The importation of salmon products: A case study of the administration of Australian Quarantine and the impact of international trade arrangements
 - Biosecurity Australia's import risk analysis for pig meat
 - Administration of Biosecurity Australia: Revised draft import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines
 - Administration of Biosecurity Australia: Revised draft import risk analysis for apples from New Zealand
 - The administration by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of the citrus canker outbreak

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted [report no. 12](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 13 October 2008
- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television Switch-over) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 25 November 2008
- ❑ Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 10 November 2008
- ❑ National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008 and a related bill—Community Affairs Committee—to report by 20 November 2008
- ❑ Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008—Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee—to report by 24 November 2008
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 5) Bill 2008—Economics Committee—to report by 13 October 2008
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund) Bill 2008—Economics Committee—to report by 13 October 2008
- ❑ Temporary Residents' Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 and a related bill—Economics Committee—to report by 20 November 2008

Other references

- ❑ [Joint marketing arrangements](#) on the North West Shelf project—Economics Committee—to report by 10 November 2008
- ❑ [Residential and community aged care](#) in Australia—Economics Committee—to report by the first sitting day of April 2009

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- ❑ Management of the Murray-Darling Basin system and the Emergency Water (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 3 October 2008
- ❑ Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 10 November 2008
- ❑ Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008 and Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—General Law Reform) Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 14 October 2008

Membership

The Senate discharged Senator Cormann from and appointed Senator Parry to the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings Joint Committee.

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]

Notices of motion to disallow given

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances gave a [notice of motion to disallow](#) two determinations relating to fees for water and sewerage services for [Christmas Island](#) and the Territory of [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#).

Notice of intention to withdraw notices

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances gave a [notice of intention](#) to withdraw notices to disallow the following delegated legislation:

- [Higher Education](#) in External Territories Guidelines 2008
- [Social Security](#) (Public Interest Certificate Guidelines) (DEEWR) Amendment Determination 2008

Documents tabled

- Auditor-General—[Audit report no. 5](#) of 2008-09
- Department of the Senate—Register of Senate senior executive officers' interests, incorporating statements of registrable interests of senior executive officers lodged between 24 June and 23 September 2008
- Odgers' Australian Senate Practice—12th edition, 2008
- [A petition](#)

Documents discussed

Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed

Ministerial statement tabled

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (Senator Carr) tabled a ministerial statement entitled *Caring for our country* [a [motion](#) to take note of the statement was debated]

