



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday, 27 August 2008

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.36pm

Senators

[Senator Sherry](#) was sworn in as a senator for Tasmania.

Senators [Pratt](#), [Xenophon](#) and [Bilyk](#) gave their first speeches.

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 27 August 2008]
- ❑ Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 26 August 2008]
- ❑ Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment (Annual Charges) Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 27 August 2008]

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Higher Education Support Amendment (Removal of the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and National Governance Protocols Requirements and Other Matters) Bill 2008—second reading agreed to [details of the bill will be considered on a future sitting day]
- ❑ Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2008—second reading agreed to and [committee of the whole](#) commenced—10 Government amendments to be determined
- ❑ National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

Notice of motion

To introduce a private senator's bill

- Emergency Water (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008—notice given by Senator Xenophon

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

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- [Excise Legislation](#) Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and a related bill—Economics Committee
- National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and a related bill—Economics Committee—[Interim report](#)
- [Tax Laws Amendment](#) (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008—Economics Committee

Other reports

- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 7](#) of 2008 and [7th report](#) of 2008 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report no. 8 of 2008](#) [report adopted]

New inquiry

The Senate agreed to refer [matters](#) relating to the provision of water from and sustainable management of the Murray-Darling Basin system to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee.

Proposed references

The Senate did not agree to refer the [Great Barrier Reef](#) Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee. [[first speaker](#)]

The Senate continued to debate a motion moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) to refer matters relating to the [Exclusive Brethren](#) to the Community Affairs Committee. The debate will continue on the next day of sitting. [[first speaker](#)]

Private meeting

The Senate authorised the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee to hold a private meeting while the Senate is sitting on 27 August 2008.

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- ❑ Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—to report by 28 August 2008
- ❑ Lobbying code of conduct—Finance and Public Administration Committee—to report by 3 September 2008
- ❑ State Government Financial Management Select Committee—to report by 17 September 2008
- ❑ Waste management in Australia and the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 3 September 2008

Notices of motion given

To refer matters to committees:

- ❑ [Emergency Water](#) (Murray-Darling Basin Rescue) Bill 2008—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 30 September in conjunction with the committee's inquiry into the provision of water from and sustainable management of the Murray-Darling Basin system
- ❑ [Western Australian gas crisis](#)—Economics Committee—to report by 14 October 2008

To extend a reporting deadline:

- ❑ Implementation, operation and administration of the legislation underpinning Carbon Sink Forests—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—to report by 3 September 2008

Membership

The Senate appointed Senator Hanson-Young as a member of the Migration 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]

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate ordered the Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) to table [documents](#) relating to the Coorong and Lower Lakes by no later than 12 noon on 28 August 2008

