



# Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday, 3 February 2009

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 7.21pm

## Senators

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The President announced the resignation on 30 January 2009 of Senator Chris Ellison.

## Legislation

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Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <[www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm)>

### Bills considered

The following bill was debated

- ❑ Corporations Amendment (No. 1) Bill 2008 [2009]—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced—[1 AG amendment](#) to be determined

The following bill was passed

- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Political Contributions and Gifts) Bill 2008—17 AG amendments agreed to, 6 items negatived [the House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

### Notice of motion to read a bill a second time

- ❑ Social Security Legislation Amendment (Employment Services Reform) Bill 2008—notice given by the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig)

### Messages from the House of Representatives

- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television Switch-over) Bill 2008—informing the Senate that the House does not insist on the amendments disagreed to by the Senate, and agreeing to the consequential amendment made by the Senate
- ❑ Temporary Residents' Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2008—agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate

[These bills have been assented to]

## **Bills assented to**

[Assent](#) to a number of laws was reported in the Senate

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

## **Committees**

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For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

### **Reports tabled**

Report on legislation

- [Commonwealth Radioactive](#) Waste Management (Repeal and Consequential Amendment) Bill 2008–Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee

Other report

- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee–[Effectiveness](#) of the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality [[motion](#) to take note of the report agreed to]

### **Document tabled**

- 2008 supplement to the consolidated register of Senate committee reports

### **Reports on access to committee documents tabled**

- Regulations and Ordinances Committee–1907 to the 1960s
- Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Legislation Joint Select Committee–1970 to 1972

### **[Government responses](#) tabled**

- Finance and Public Administration Committee–Knock, knock who’s there? The Lobbying Code of Conduct
- Intelligence and Security Joint Committee–
  - Inquiry into the proscription of ‘terrorist organisations’ under the Australian Criminal Code
  - Review of security and counter terrorism legislation
- National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee–The way forward: Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority
- President’s report of 26 June 2008 on outstanding government responses to parliamentary committee reports
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–411th report: Progress on equipment acquisition and financial reporting in Defence

## Public meetings

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

- Agricultural and Related Industries Select Committee—4 February 2009 from 3.30pm—pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global fertiliser market
- Electoral Matters Joint Committee—3 February 2009 from 12.45pm to 1.45pm—2007 Federal Election, including the Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008

## Notices of motion given

To extend reporting deadlines:

- Economics Committee—to report by 26 February 2009
  - Tax Laws Amendment (Taxation of Financial Arrangements) Bill 2008
  - Trade Practices Amendment (Cartel Conduct and Other Measures) Bill 2008

To refer a matter to a committee:

- [Australia's climate change response](#)—Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—to report by 29 May 2009—notice given by Senator Milne

## Membership

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

## Documents

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### 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, including Governor-General's Proclamations]

### Orders for the production of documents

Notices of motion given

The following notices of motion were given requiring Ministers to table documents:

- [Answers to various questions](#) relating to the increase in excise on certain alcoholic drinks—by 5 and 23 February 2009—notice given by Senator Cormann
- Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to [table reports](#) relating to the National Broadband Network—no later than 10.00am on 5 February 2009—notice given by Senator Minchin
- Minister representing the Treasurer to [table documents](#) relating to the Department of the Treasury report *Australia's low pollution future: The economics of climate change mitigation*—no later than 12.00pm on 5 February 2009—notice given by Senator Cormann

## Orders with continuing effect

### *Departmental and agency appointments*

Statements of compliance for various portfolios [see Journals entries [32](#) and [45](#)] 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 contracts published on the Internet*

A statement of compliance for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 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]

### *Departmental and agency grants*

Statements of compliance for various portfolios [see Journals entries [33](#) and [46](#)] 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]

### *Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet*

A statement of compliance for the Australian Trade Commission was tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

## Documents tabled

- ❑ Auditor-General—Audit reports nos 12 to 18 of 2008-09 [See Journals entries nos [30](#) and [38](#)] [[motion](#) to take note of report no. 12 was agreed to]
- ❑ [Business of the Senate](#)—1 January to 31 December 2008 [a digest of all business considered by the Senate in 2008]
- ❑ Government documents [see Journals entries nos [2](#) and [29](#)] [[and considered](#)]
- ❑ Responses to Senate resolutions about:
  - Construction of a road through the Tarkine Forest, Tasmania—from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Mr Albanese) [resolution agreed to [1 December 2008](#)] [[motion](#) to take note of the response agreed to]
  - Harmful effects of pesticides—from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Mr Burke) [resolution agreed to [25 November 2008](#)]
  - Moreton Bay fishing—from the Premier of Queensland (Ms Bligh) [resolution agreed to [27 November 2008](#)]
  - Trees for Life in South Australia—from the Chief Executive Officer of Trees for Life (Ms Carmel Dundon) [resolution agreed to [2 December 2008](#)]
- ❑ Questions on notice summary—12 February to 31 December 2008
- ❑ [2 petitions](#)

## Ministerial statements tabled

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Hurley) tabled a ministerial statement about changes to the 2008-09 skilled migration program, which was presented since the last sitting of the Senate.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (Senator Stephens) tabled a ministerial statement responding to the global financial and economic crisis.

## **Other business**

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

### **Motion debated**

The Senate discussed [issues](#) relating to the Prime Minister's economic strategies, raised by Senator Abetz as a matter of public importance. [[first speaker](#)]

### **Statement by President**

The President made a [statement](#) relating to various staffing and administrative matters.

### **Death of Private Gregory Michael Sher**

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) [moved](#) that the Senate records its deep regret at the death, on 4 January 2009, of Private Gregory Michael Sher, while on combat operations in Afghanistan.

### **Trooper Mark Donaldson VC**

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) [moved](#) that the Senate records this occasion of national significance in the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Trooper Mark Donaldson, VC, on 16 January 2009.

### **Shadow Ministry**

Senator Minchin informed the Senate of changes to the [Shadow Ministry](#).

### **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](http://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](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate)

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