



# Senate Daily Summary

## Thursday, 12 March 2009

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.30pm

### **New Senator**

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[Senator Christopher Back](#) was sworn in as a senator for Western Australia to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation, on 30 January 2009, of Senator 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 private senator's bill was debated

- Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising (Broadcasting Amendment) Bill 2008—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were introduced, debated and passed

- Federal Financial Relations Bill 2009  
Federal Financial Relations (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2009  
[These bills will now be assented to]

The following bills were passed

- Tax Agent Services Bill 2008
- Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 6) Bill 2009  
[These bills will now be assented to]

#### **Variation to hours of meeting**

The Senate agreed to vary the [hours of meeting](#) and routine of business for 16 and 17 March 2009 to enable the Government's legislative program to be considered.

## Committees

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[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

### Estimates

The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee tabled additional information arising from the 2008-09 supplementary budget estimates hearings.

### Reports tabled

- [Six standing committees](#)—Reports on annual reports tabled by 31 October 2008

### Public meetings

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

- Economics Committee—12 March 2009 from 6.30pm—Bank mergers
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—16 March 2009 from 4.45pm—Management of the Murray-Darling Basin system

### Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- Community Affairs Committee—Excise Tariff Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009 and a related bill—to report by 16 March 2009
- Finance and Public Administration Committee—Annual reports tabled by 31 October 2008—to report by 19 March 2009
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee—Annual reports tabled by 31 October 2008—to report by 17 March 2009
- National Broadband Network Select Committee—to report by 22 June 2009
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee—
  - 2008-09 additional estimates—to report by 31 March 2009
  - Management of the Murray-Darling Basin system—to report by 12 May 2009
  - Natural resource management and conservation challenges—to report by 12 May 2009

### Notices of motion given

To refer matters to a committee

- [Foreign investment in Australia](#)—Economics Committee—to report by 17 June 2009—notice given by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

To [vary terms of reference](#)

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—notice given by Senator Macdonald

### 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]

### Orders for the production of documents

#### Statement by Minister

The Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry) tabled [a statement](#) relating to the order of the Senate [agreed to on [3 December 2008](#)] requiring the tabling of a document about section 86A of the *Water Act 2007*.

#### 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]

### Document tabled

- Responses to a Senate resolution about:
  - Sri Lanka—from the Sri Lankan High Commissioner (His Excellency Mr Senaka Walgampaya, PC) [resolution agreed to [11 February 2009](#)]

### Documents discussed

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

## Other business

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

### Motions agreed to

- [Democracy in Burma](#)—moved by Senator Ludlam
- [Political prisoners](#) and democracy in Burma—moved by Senator Ludlam
- [Proposed Emissions Trading Scheme](#) and the Queensland economy—moved by Senator Brandis [debated as a matter of urgency—[first speaker](#)]

### Motions negated

- [50th anniversary](#) of the Tibetan uprising and Tibet's future—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Chinalco and Rio Tinto](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- [Executive remuneration](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

## Statements by President

The President made statements relating to:

- the [retirement of Mr Trevor Fowler](#), Director of Hansard Projects, Department of Parliamentary Services
- a [matter raised](#) by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) during debate on the Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising (Broadcasting Amendment) Bill 2008 concerning a motion to close the debate [[see Senate Hansard](#)]

## Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

## Statistics

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Statistics on the work of the Senate this week will be available in the [Statistical Summary](#), which forms part of [StatsNet](#)—the Department of the Senate’s online statistical collection.

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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)

### Contact details

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