



# Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 14 May 2009

The Senate met from 9.30am until 9.22pm

*The Senate will meet again on 15 June 2009. Senate legislation committees will meet from 25 May to 5 June 2009 to consider [Budget estimates](#).*

## **Budget 2009-10**

[Budget Papers, Portfolio Budget Statements and related sites <www.budget.gov.au>](#)

The [Opposition](#), the Leader of the [Australian Greens](#) and the Leader of the [Family First Party](#) responded to the Budget statement and documents.

## **Legislation**

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

### **Bills considered**

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Nation-building Funds Amendment Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 May 2009]
- ❑ National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008 [No. 2] [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 May 2009]
- ❑ Parliamentary Superannuation Amendment (Removal of Excessive Super) Bill 2009 [private senator's bill]

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

- ❑ Financial Assistance Legislation Amendment Bill 2009
- ❑ Social Security and Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (2009 Budget Measures) Bill 2009
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Small Business and General Business Tax Break) Bill 2009

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Australian Business Investment Partnership Bill 2009—committee of the whole commenced—6 Family First and 3 Senator Xenophon [amendments agreed to](#) [further amendments remain to be considered]  
Australian Business Investment Partnership (Consequential Amendment) Bill 2009

The following bill was introduced and passed

- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Small Business and General Business Tax Break) Bill 2009 [This bill will now be assented to] [Senator Abetz made a [statement](#) in relation to the bill]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Customs Amendment (Enhanced Border Controls and Other Measures) Bill 2008 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Customs Legislation Amendment (Name Change) Bill 2009 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Employment and Workplace Relations Amendment Bill 2008—5 Government amendments and 3 Government requests for amendments agreed to—a message was reported advising that the House had made the amendments requested by the Senate—the third reading of the bill was agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]
- ❑ Financial Assistance Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Social Security and Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (2009 Budget Measures) Bill 2009 [This bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Telecommunications Interception Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2008 [This bill will now be assented to]

**Notice of motion to introduce a private senator's bill**

- ❑ Infrastructure Australia Amendment (National Broadband Network and Other Projects) Bill 2009—notice given by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)

**Bills assented to**

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

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

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**Committees**

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

**Estimates**

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

**Reports tabled**

- ❑ Appropriations and Staffing Committee—47<sup>th</sup> report—Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2009-10

- Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee–[Reporting of sports news](#) and the emergence of digital media [a motion was moved to take note of the report]
- Publications Committee–[10th Report](#) [report adopted]

### **Documents tabled**

- Community Affairs Committee–Grasping the opportunity of Opal: Assessing the impact of the petrol sniffing strategy–Additional information

### **Government response tabled**

- Community Affairs Committee–Building trust: Supporting families through disability trusts

### **New inquiries**

#### Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted [report no. 5](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and made the following references:

- AusCheck Amendment Bill 2009–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 16 June 2009
- Health Workforce Australia Bill 2009–Community Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 15 June 2009
- Nation Building Program (National Land Transport) Amendment Bill 2009–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 15 June 2009

#### Other references

- [Any bills](#) introduced into the House of Representatives that form part of the Government’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 15 June 2009
- [Any budget-related bills](#) introduced into the Parliament after 12 May 2009 and before 5 June 2009 that are proposed to commence prior to 11 August 2009–Committees–to report by 16 June 2009
- [Relationship](#) between the Central Land Council and Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–to report by 11 August 2009

### **Public meeting**

The Senate authorised the Economics Legislation Committee to hold a public meeting while the Senate is sitting on 22 June 2009 from 12.30pm for the committee’s inquiry into matters arising from consideration of the 2009-10 Budget estimates.

### **Reporting dates extended**

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- Economics Legislation Committee–2009-10 Budget estimates–to report by 25 June 2009

- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Import risk analysis for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines—to report by 22 May 2009

### **Variation of appointment and reporting date**

The Senate [varied its resolution](#) of 25 June 2008 appointing the National Broadband Network Select Committee and extended the reporting date to 23 November 2009.

### **Membership**

The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership [see Journals entries nos [20](#) and [53](#)].

## **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]

### **Motion to disapprove defeated**

The Senate did not agree to a [motion](#) which would have disapproved Part 3 (clauses 3.1 to 3.3) of [Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2009/04](#) [[first speaker](#)].

### **Orders for the production of documents—Orders with continuing effect**

#### **Departmental and agency appointments**

A statement of compliance for the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio was 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 grants**

A statement of compliance for the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy was tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

### **Documents tabled**

- ❑ Correction to the 2009-10 portfolio budget statements for the Attorney-General's portfolio
- ❑ [2 petitions](#)

## **Other business**

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

### **Motions agreed to**

- ❑ [Culture within sporting organisations](#)—moved by Senator Hanson-Young

