



# Senate Daily Summary

Monday, 16 March 2009

The Senate met from 12.00 noon until 11.28pm

## Legislation

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 introduced

- Food Safety (Trans Fats) Bill 2009

The following bills were debated

- Customs Tariff Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009  
Excise Tariff Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009  
–Second reading agreed to [[first speaker](#)]-1 Opposition [second reading amendment](#) agreed to [expressing a view about the policy of the bills]  
–Committee of the whole commenced–[20 Opposition requests](#) for amendments agreed to

**Notice of motion to exempt bills from the cut-off order** [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2008-2009  
Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2008-2009
- Australian Business Investment Partnership Bill 2009 and a related bill
- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009
- Social Security Amendment (Liquid Assets Waiting Period) Bill 2009
- Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Amendment (Commonwealth Seniors Health Card) Bill 2009
- Tax Laws Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009

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

## Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

### Reports tabled

Report on legislation

- [Excise Tariff](#) Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009 and Customs Tariff Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009—Community Affairs Committee

Other reports

- Treaties Joint Committee—
  - [98th report](#)—Treaties tabled on 26 November 2008 and 4 December 2008
  - [99th report](#)—Treaties tabled on 3 December 2008 and 3 February 2009[a [motion](#) to take note of the reports was agreed to]

### Document tabled

- National Broadband Network Select Committee—[Correction to interim report](#)

### Amendment to terms of reference

The Senate agreed to a motion to [amend](#) the terms of reference for the inquiry of the Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee into financial products and services in Australia.

### Public meeting

The Senate authorised the Electoral Matters Joint Committee to hold a public meeting while the Senate is sitting on 17 March 2009 for the committee's inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election, including the Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008.

### Notices of motion given

To extend reporting deadlines

- Community Affairs Committee—Implementation of recommendations of committee reports on child migration and Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children—to report by 25 June 2009
- Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee—Water Amendment (Saving the Goulburn and Murray Rivers) Bill 2008—to report by 7 May 2009

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee—19 March 2009—In camera hearing from 5.00pm—Economic and security challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the island states of the southwest Pacific
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—19 March 2009 from 10.00am—Human rights mechanisms and the Asia-Pacific
- Treaties Joint Committee—17 March 2009—Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)

To vary the order appointing a committee

- Climate Policy Select Committee—[notice](#) given by the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig)

### **Membership**

The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership.

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported advising of various changes to joint committees.

## **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]

Notices of motion to disallow given

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

- [Instrument number CASA 627/08](#) made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988
- [Other Grants Guidelines \(Research\) 2008](#) made under section 238-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*

### **Orders for the production of documents**

Document tabled

The Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig) tabled an interim response to an order of the Senate agreed to on [11 March 2009](#) for the production of documents relating to private health insurance.

Order 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]

### **Documents tabled**

- Australian Parliamentary Delegation—Report—Egypt and Israel—24 October to 6 November 2008 [a motion to take note of the report was debated and agreed to—[first speaker](#)]
- [Government document](#)

## Ministerial statement tabled

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (Senator Carr) tabled a ministerial statement on the agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand free trade area, together with the agreement [a motion was moved to take note of the statement].

## Other business

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

### Motion agreed to

- [Funding for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

### Motion debated

The Senate discussed [matters](#) relating to the oil and chemical spill on the south-east Queensland coast, raised by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) as a matter of public importance. [[first speaker](#)]

### Questions on notice—Failure to provide answers

Senator Ronaldson asked the following Ministers why answers had not been provided to [various questions on notice](#)—

- Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) [[explanation](#)]
- Human Services (Senator Ludwig) [[explanation](#)]
- Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner) [[explanation](#)]
- Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) [[explanation](#)]
- Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (Senator Carr) [[explanation](#)]
- Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Senator Conroy) [[explanation](#)]
- Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry) [[explanation](#)]

Explanations were provided, and a motion moved by Senator Ronaldson to take note of the explanations was debated and agreed to [[first speaker](#)].

### 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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