



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday, 17 March 2009

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 11.29pm

New Senator

[Senator Back](#) gave his [first speech](#).

Legislation

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

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2008-2009
Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2008-2009
- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009

[passed by the House of Representatives on 16 March 2009]

The following bill was debated

- Fair Work Bill 2008–Committee of the whole commenced–2 Opposition (1 as amended by Family First) and 38 Government amendments agreed to and 2 clauses negatived. 3 Australian Greens amendments to be determined

The following bills were agreed to subject to requests

- Customs Tariff Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009
Excise Tariff Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009
[See Journals [entry no. 24](#), 16 March 2009 for previous consideration of the bills]

Notices of motion

To introduce a bill

- Migration Amendment (Abolishing Detention Debt) Bill 2009–notice given by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans)

To enable bills to be taken together

- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2008-2009
 - Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2008-2009
 - Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2008-2009
 - Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2008-2009
- notice given by the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig)

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Estimates

The following reports relating to estimates hearings were tabled:

- [Seven standing committees](#)–Additional estimates 2008-09

Reports tabled

- Electoral Matters Joint Committee–2007 federal election electronic voting trials–Inquiry into the conduct of the 2007 election and matters related thereto–[Interim report](#) [a motion to take note of the report was agreed to]
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee–Annual reports referred to committees–[Report no. 1 of 2009](#)

Proposed reference

The Senate did not agree to refer matters relating to [foreign investments in Australia](#) to the Economics Committee.

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while 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 from 8.00pm–Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)

Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- 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

Notices of motion given

To establish a continuing order

- [Order of continuing effect](#)—relating to the requests for information or documents from a Commonwealth department or agency—notice given by Senator Cormann

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Economics Committee—18 and 19 March 2009 from 6.30pm—Exposure draft of the legislation to implement the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

To refer a matter to a committee

- [Sovereign wealth funds and state-owned companies](#)—Economics Committee—to report by 17 June 2009—notice given by the Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Joyce) and the Chair of the Economics Committee (Senator Hurley)

Membership

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

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, including Governor-General's Proclamations]

Orders for the production of documents

Statement by Minister

The Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion (Senator Stephens) made [a statement](#) about the order of the Senate [agreed to on [11 March 2009](#)] requiring the tabling of documents concerning information relating to the Department of the Treasury modelling, *Australia's Low Pollution Future: The economics of climate change mitigation*—no later than noon on 13 March 2009. The Minister indicated that the documents would not be provided. [Senator Cormann](#) and the Leader of the Australian Greens ([Senator Bob Brown](#)) made statements in response.

Order with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

Statements of compliance for the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio and the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Documents tabled

- [Government documents](#)

