

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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Contents

1	Meeting of Senate	1513
2	Government Documents	1513
3	Questions	1514
4	Health—Medicare—Bulk Billing—Health Insurance—Answers to Questions	1514
5	Notices	1514
6	Postponements	1517
7	Community Affairs References Committee—Reference	1518
8	Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—Extensions of Time to Report	1519
9	Transport—Ethanol—Order for Production of Documents—Failure to Comply	1519
10	Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Leave to Meet During Sitting	1519
11	Superannuation—Select Committee—Leave to Meet During Sitting	1520
12	Economics Legislation Committee—Leave to Meet During Sitting	1520
13	Immigration—Detention Centres	1520
14	Foreign Affairs—Tibet—Buddhist Monk Lobsang Dhondup	1520
15	Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee— Additional Information—Budget Estimates 2002-03	1521
16	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—Additional Information—Budget Estimates 2002-03	1521
17	Documents	1521
18	Governor-General's Messages—Assent to Laws	1521
19	Law and Justice—Terrorism Awareness Information—Document	1522
20	National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits—Budget Measures) Bill 2002 [No. 2]	1522
21	Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 6) 2002	1522
22	Migration Legislation Amendment (Contributory Parents Migration Scheme) Bill 2002 Migration (Visa Application) Charge Amendment Bill 2002	1523

23	Government Documents—Consideration	1523
24	Adjournment	1524
25	Attendance.....	1524

1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 2 pm. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

2 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The following government documents were tabled:

Australia-Korea Foundation—Report for 2000-01.

Australian Communications Authority—National relay service provider performance—Report for 2001-02.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly reports for the periods—

1 April to 30 June 2002.

1 July to 30 September 2002.

Australian Trade Commission (AUSTRADE)—Report for 2001-02—Erratum.

Commonwealth Electoral Act—2002-03 Redistribution into electoral divisions—Victoria—Report, together with composite maps [2] showing boundaries as determined by the augmented Electoral Commission and compact disc containing suggestions and comments, objections and comments, transcript of proceedings at public hearing into public objections and copy of report.

Commonwealth Grants Commission—Report—State revenue sharing relativities—2003 update.

CrimTrac Agency—Report for 2001-02—Corrigenda.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—Advancing the national interest: Australia's foreign and trade policy white paper.

National Environment Protection Council and NEPC Service Corporation—Report for 2001-02.

Native Title Act—Native title representative bodies—Reports for 2001-02—

Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Central Queensland Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Gurang Land Council (Aboriginal Corporation).

Kimberley Land Council.

Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation).

North Queensland Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Yamatji Barna Baba Maaaja Aboriginal Corporation.

Regional Forest Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania—Reports—

Inquiry on the progress with implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (1997)—Final recommendations report, December 2002.

Tasmanian Government implementation—2001.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and regulation impact statement—Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement, done at Singapore on 17 February 2003, and associated exchange of notes.

Multilateral—

Text, together with national interest analysis—Amendments, done at Santiago in November 2002, to Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, of 3 March 1973.

Text, together with national interest analyses and regulation impact statements—

Annex IV: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships (revised) of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Amended (MARPOL 73/78), done at London, 17 February 1978, revised text adopted at London, 13 March 2000.

International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, done at London on 18 October 2001.

Wheat Export Authority—Report for 1 October 2001 to 30 September 2002.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

4 HEALTH—MEDICARE—BULK BILLING—HEALTH INSURANCE—ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Senator Forshaw moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator Patterson) to questions without notice asked today relating to Medicare and the decline in the rate of bulk billing and to private health insurance.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Senator Allison moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator Patterson) to a question without notice asked by Senator Allison today relating to Medicare and the decline in the rate of bulk billing.

Question put and passed.

5 NOTICES*Notices of motion:*

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell): To move on the next day of sitting—That consideration of the business before the Senate on Tuesday, 18 March 2003 be interrupted at approximately 5 pm, but not so as to interrupt a senator speaking, to enable Senator Humphries to make his first speech without any question before the chair.

The Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 6 March 2003, from 4 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 2002. (*general business notice of motion no. 363*)

The Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (Senator Ridgeway): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 5 March 2003, from 6.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into forestry plantations. (*general business notice of motion no. 364*)

Senator Allison: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Thursday, 6 March 2003, the written advice provided by the Department of Defence to the Department of Education, Science and Training concerning the defence-related issues in connection with the National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia. (*general business notice of motion no. 365*)

Senator McLucas and the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett): To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* to provide for an extension of the boundaries of the Great Barrier Reef Region. ***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Protecting the Great Barrier Reef from Oil Drilling and Exploration) Amendment Bill 2003 [No. 2]***. (*general business notice of motion no. 366*)

Senator Greig: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

- (i) the commitment by the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) that the Government would look after the loved ones and families of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in or heading to the Gulf and into a potential war with Iraq,
- (ii) that this undertaking includes grief counselling, death benefits compensation and surviving spouses' pensions, in the event that ADF personnel are killed or injured,
- (iii) that this social, moral and financial support only applies to heterosexual, married, and de facto partners in the ADF, and does not apply to the loved ones and families of same-sex partners in the ADF, and
- (iv) that this discrimination against gay and lesbian service personnel is inconsistent with the 1992 lifting of the ban on homosexual people serving in the military and inconsistent with the ADF's equity program aimed at redressing discrimination in the forces; and

(b) calls on the Government to end this unacceptable discrimination against gay and lesbian service personnel and their partners to ensure that all personnel and their partners, both heterosexual and homosexual, receive equal treatment, including access to grief counselling, death benefits compensation and surviving spouses' pensions, in recognition of the fact that all ADF personnel are asked to put their lives on the line for their country. (*general business notice of motion no. 367*)

Senator Cook: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate notes that:

- (a) 5 March 2003 is the 20th anniversary of the election of the Hawke Labor Government;
- (b) Bob Hawke served the nation as Prime Minister from March 1983 to December 1991 and is the second longest serving Prime Minister since Federation;
- (c) the Australian Labor Party under Bob Hawke's leadership won elections in 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990;
- (d) the Hawke era saw the restructuring of the Australian economy, with the floating of the dollar, the opening of the banking and financial sector, across the board cuts in tariffs and protection, the decentralisation of the wage fixing system, the introduction of superannuation for all workers, the reform of the public service, and the formation of the Australian-led Cairns Group of free-trading agricultural nations;

- (e) significant social reforms during this period included the introduction of Medicare, reform of the social welfare system, establishment of the Office of the Status of Women, and commencement of Aboriginal reconciliation;
- (f) major environmental achievements of the Hawke Government were the establishment of the national Landcare program, the formation of the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council, and World Heritage listings in Tasmania and Kakadu;
- (g) in foreign relations, the Hawke Government forged closer ties between Australia, Asia and the Pacific, and led the formation of APEC; and
- (h) many of these achievements have survived the change of government and are indicative of the Hawke Government's vision and relevance to the future of Australia. (*general business notice of motion no. 368*)

Senator Brown: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the extraordinary meeting of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to be held in Paris from 17 to 22 March 2003 to consider proposed changes to the operational guidelines of the World Heritage Convention;
- (b) reaffirms its support for the World Heritage Convention, in particular:
 - (i) the power of the World Heritage Committee to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List in Danger without the consent of the state party,
 - (ii) the power of the World Heritage Committee to remove a property from the World Heritage List without the consent of the state party,
 - (iii) the current interpretation of the Convention, which recognises that sites have integrity and the management of World Heritage sites be directed at safeguarding both the World Heritage values and the property as a whole, and
 - (iv) the role of the advisory bodies to the Convention in making representations directly to the World Heritage Committee in relation to any World Heritage property; and
- (c) condemns the Government for its efforts to undermine the integrity of the Convention by supporting changes to the operational guidelines which would undermine all the above-mentioned powers, interpretations and responsibilities. (*general business notice of motion no. 369*)

Senator Nettle: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the comments of the British Prime Minister (Mr Blair) regarding the detention of British nationals in Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that, 'it is an irregular situation and certainly we would want to try to bring it to an end as swiftly as possible';
- (b) notes that Australian citizens Mr David Hicks and Mr Mamdouh Habib remain incarcerated in Camp X-Ray without having been charged or brought before the courts for trial;
- (c) expresses ongoing concern at the shameful lack of action from the Government regarding this situation; and
- (d) reiterates its call on the Australian Government as a matter of urgency to take whatever steps are required to return both Mr Hicks and Mr Habib to Australia to determine whether they should be freed or face trial, as is their right. (*general business notice of motion no. 370*)

Senator Nettle: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) that bulk-billing was never intended to be a universal scheme and that the Government could not afford to provide universal free coverage for all Australians;
- (b) condemns the Prime Minister for seeking to return Australia to an age of charity for the ‘less fortunate’, in place of guaranteeing good quality health care for all Australians irrespective of their ability to pay; and
- (c) calls on the Government to examine ways to fund a universal scheme, starting with abolishing the private health insurance rebate. (*general business notice of motion no. 371*)

Notices of motion withdrawn:

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Tchen), pursuant to notice of intention given on 3 March 2003, withdrew business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in his name for 12 sitting days after today for the disallowance of the Bankruptcy Amendment Regulations 2002 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2002 No. 255 and made under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*.

Senator Allison, at the request of Senator Stott Despoja, withdrew general business notice of motion no. 348 standing in the name of Senator Stott Despoja for today, relating to Flinders University Health and Counselling services.

6 POSTPONEMENTS

Items of business were postponed as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in the name of Senator Brown for today, relating to the reference of matters to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee, postponed till 5 March 2003.

Government business notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell) for today, relating to a proposal for capital works in the parliamentary zone, postponed till 6 March 2003.

General business notice of motion no. 53 standing in the name of Senator Greig for today, relating to the introduction of the Sexuality Anti-Vilification Bill 2002, postponed till 26 March 2003.

General business notice of motion no. 342 standing in the name of Senator Cherry for today, relating to the Government’s response to a report of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee, postponed till 5 March 2003.

General business notice of motion no. 355 standing in the name of Senator Allison for today, relating to cancer deaths attributed to nuclear testing, postponed till 5 March 2003.

General business notice of motion no. 356 standing in the name of Senator Allison for today, relating to Eileen Kampakuta Brown and opposition to the construction of a national radioactive waste repository in South Australia, postponed till 5 March 2003.

General business notice of motion no. 359 standing in the name of Senator Brown for today, relating to the protection of forest areas in north east New South Wales, postponed till 5 March 2003.

General business notice of motion no. 361 standing in the name of Senator Brown for today, relating to a West Papua conference and concert held in Melbourne, postponed till 5 March 2003.

7 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REFERENCE

Senator Murray, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1—

- (1) That the following matters be referred to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 3 December 2003:
 - (a) in relation to any government or non-government institutions, and fostering practices, established or licensed under relevant legislation to provide care and/or education for children:
 - (i) whether any unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children occurred in these institutions or places,
 - (ii) whether any serious breach of any relevant statutory obligation occurred at any time when children were in care or under protection, and
 - (iii) an estimate of the scale of any unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children in such institutions or places;
 - (b) the extent and impact of the long-term social and economic consequences of child abuse and neglect on individuals, families and Australian society as a whole, and the adequacy of existing remedies and support mechanisms;
 - (c) the nature and cause of major changes to professional practices employed in the administration and delivery of care compared with past practice;
 - (d) whether there is a need for a formal acknowledgement by Australian governments of the human anguish arising from any abuse and neglect suffered by children while in care;
 - (e) in cases where unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children has occurred, what measures of reparation are required;
 - (f) whether statutory or administrative limitations or barriers adversely affect those who wish to pursue claims against perpetrators of abuse previously involved in the care of children; and
 - (g) the need for public, social and legal policy to be reviewed to ensure an effective and responsive framework to deal with child abuse matters in relation to:
 - (i) any systemic factors contributing to the occurrences of abuse and/or neglect,
 - (ii) any failure to detect or prevent these occurrences in government and non-government institutions and fostering practices, and
 - (iii) any necessary changes required in current policies, practices and reporting mechanisms.
- (2) In undertaking this reference, the committee is to direct its inquiries primarily to those affected children who were not covered by the 2001 report *Lost Innocents: Righting the Record*, inquiring into child migrants, and the 1997 report, *Bringing Them Home*, inquiring into Aboriginal children.
- (3) In undertaking this reference, the committee is not to consider particular cases under the current adjudication of a court, tribunal or administrative body.
- (4) In undertaking this reference, the committee is to make witnesses and those who provide submissions aware of the scope of the inquiry, namely:
 - (a) explain the respective responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the states and territories in relation to child protection matters; and

- (b) explain the scope of the committee's powers to make recommendations binding upon other jurisdictions in relation to the matters contained in these terms of reference.

Question put and passed.

8 ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO REPORT

The Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee (Senator Allison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 352—That the time for the presentation of reports of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee be extended as follows:

- (a) environmental performance at the Ranger, Jabiluka, Beverley and Honeymoon uranium operations—to 9 April 2003; and
- (b) the role of libraries as providers of public information in the online environment—to 24 June 2003.

Question put and passed.

9 TRANSPORT—ETHANOL—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—FAILURE TO COMPLY

Senator O'Brien, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 354—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) on 16 October 2002 it agreed to an order for the production of documents relating to the government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy,
 - (ii) on 21 October 2002 the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell) advised the Senate that 'the government intends to comply with the order as soon as possible and fully expects to be in a position to do so shortly',
 - (iii) on 12 December 2002 Senator Ian Campbell advised the Senate that, 'consideration of the documents is close to conclusion' and committed to tabling the requested documents out of session by 17 December 2002,
 - (iv) on 5 February 2003 Senator Ian Campbell advised the Senate that, 'the government is seeking to conclude its consideration of these documents and its compliance – albeit very late – with the order of the Senate', and
 - (v) more than 130 days have passed since Senator Ian Campbell gave the Senate a commitment that the Government would 'shortly' comply with the Senate order; and
- (b) calls on the Government to comply with the order of the Senate no later than 5 pm on 6 March 2003.

Question put and passed.

10 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

The Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services (Senator Chapman), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 358—That the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services be authorised to hold a public

meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 5 March 2003, from 4.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the disclosure of commissions on risk products.

Question put and passed.

11 SUPERANNUATION—SELECT COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator Eggleston, at the request of the Chair of the Select Committee on Superannuation (Senator Watson) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 353—That the Select Committee on Superannuation be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 5 March 2003, from 6 pm till 8.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Bill 2002 and the Superannuation (Financial Assistance Funding) Levy Amendment Bill 2002.

Question put and passed.

12 ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator Eggleston, at the request of the Chair of the Economics Legislation Committee (Senator Brandis) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 357—That the Economics Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 6 March 2003, from 4 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002.

Question put and passed.

13 IMMIGRATION—DETENTION CENTRES

Senator Nettle amended her notice of motion by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 360—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the fires and destruction of property which occurred over December 2002 and January 2003 and put lives of asylum seekers and staff at risk at five Australian immigration detention centres, and the ongoing consequences in terms of the impact for asylum seekers;
- (b) condemns the Acting Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Mr Williams) for the imputations in his media statements accusing refugee advocates for inciting arson; and
- (c) calls on the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Mr Ruddock) and the Department for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to ensure that asylum seekers not involved in the fires at these detention centres are not arbitrarily detained or punished.

Question put and passed.

14 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—TIBET—BUDDHIST MONK LOBSANG DHONDUP

Senator Brown amended his notice of motion by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 349—That the Senate—

- (a) expresses its concern over the execution of Buddhist monk Lobsang Dhondup in Tibet in January 2003; and

- (b) calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to seek an explanation for his death from the People's Republic of China.

Question put and passed.

**15 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—BUDGET ESTIMATES 2002-03**

Senator Eggleston, at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan), tabled additional information received by the committee (Budget estimates 2002-03 (Supplementary)—vols 1 and 2).

**16 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—BUDGET ESTIMATES 2002-03**

Senator Eggleston, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee (Senator Sandy Macdonald), tabled *Hansard* record of proceedings (Budget estimates 2002-03 (Supplementary)—2 vols) and additional information received by the committee (Budget estimates 2002-03—vols 1 to 3).

17 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—

Amendment 41.

Approval of Amendment 41.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (High Quality Beef Export to the European Union) Order 2003.

Class Rulings CR 2003/12 and CR 2003/13.

Goods and Services Tax Determination GSTD 2003/1.

Goods and Services Tax Rulings GSTR 2003/1 and GSTR 2003/2.

Migration Act—Directions under section 499—Directions Nos 30 and 31 of 2003.

Taxation Determination TD 2003/2.

18 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGES—ASSENT TO LAWS

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were reported, informing the Senate that he had assented to the following laws:

24 February 2003—Message No. 1—

Australian Capital Territory Legislation Amendment Act 2003 (Act No. 1, 2003)

Commonwealth Volunteers Protection Act 2003 (Act No. 2, 2003)

Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Advice Industry) Act 2003 (Act No. 3, 2003)

26 February 2003—Message No. 2—*Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003* (Act No. 4, 2003).

19 LAW AND JUSTICE—TERRORISM AWARENESS INFORMATION—DOCUMENT

Leave refused: Senator Nettle sought leave to table documents relating to the Government's terrorism awareness information campaign.

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Statement by leave: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell), by leave, made a statement relating to the tabling of the documents.

Senator Nettle, by leave, tabled the following document:

Law and justice—Terrorism awareness information—Messages for the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) from the Australian people directly quoted from the returned terrorism awareness packs.

20 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT (PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS—BUDGET MEASURES) BILL 2002 [NO. 2]

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 31

Senators—

Abetz	Coonan	Lightfoot	Santoro
Barnett	Eggleston (Teller)	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Boswell	Ellison	Macdonald, Sandy	Tchen
Brandis	Ferguson	Mason	Tierney
Calvert	Ferris	McGauran	Troeth
Campbell, Ian	Heffernan	Minchin	Vanstone
Chapman	Humphries	Patterson	Watson
Colbeck	Johnston	Payne	

NOES, 36

Senators—

Allison	Collins	Hutchins	Murray
Bartlett	Conroy	Kirk	Nettle
Bishop	Crossin (Teller)	Lees	O'Brien
Bolkus	Denman	Ludwig	Ray
Brown	Evans	Mackay	Ridgeway
Buckland	Forshaw	Marshall	Stephens
Campbell, George	Greig	McLucas	Stott Despoja
Carr	Harradine	Moore	Webber
Cherry	Hogg	Murphy	Wong

Question negatived.

21 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 2002

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (Senator Coonan) the bill was read a third time.

**22 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CONTRIBUTORY PARENTS MIGRATION SCHEME) BILL 2002
MIGRATION (VISA APPLICATION) CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

At 6.50 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Sherry was speaking.

23 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION

The following government documents tabled earlier today (*see entry no. 2*) were considered:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—Advancing the national interest: Australia's foreign and trade policy white paper. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Mackay. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Mackay in continuation.

Treaties—*Bilateral*—Text, together with national interest analysis and regulation impact statement—Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement, done at Singapore on 17 February 2003, and associated exchange of notes. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Mackay. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Mackay in continuation.

Treaty—*Multilateral*—Text, together with national interest analysis—Amendments, done at Santiago in November 2002, to Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, of 3 March 1973. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Treaty—*Multilateral*—Text, together with national interest analysis and regulation impact statement—International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, done at London on 18 October 2001. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Treaty—*Multilateral*—Text, together with national interest analysis and regulation impact statement—Annex IV: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships (revised) of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Amended (MARPOL 73/78), done at London, 17 February 1978, revised text adopted at London, 13 March 2000. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Mackay. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Mackay in continuation.

Regional Forest Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania—Report—Inquiry on the progress with implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (1997)—Final recommendations report, December 2002. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Murphy. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Murphy in continuation.

Regional Forest Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania—Tasmanian Government implementation—Report for 2001. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Murphy. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Murphy in continuation.

24 ADJOURNMENT

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Bolkus) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund—Joint Statutory Committee—Leave to meet during sitting: Senator Ferris, by leave and at the request of the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund (Senator Johnston), moved—That the committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Tuesday, 4 March 2003.

Question put and passed.

Debate continued.

The Senate adjourned at 9.15 pm till Wednesday, 5 March 2003 at 9.30 am.

25 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senators Harris* and Kemp (* on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate