## JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 77
TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2006

### Contents

1. Meeting of Senate ................................................................. 1993
2. Government Documents ..................................................... 1993
3. Hours of Meeting and Routine of Business—Variation .......... 1994
4. Aged Care (Bond Security) Bill 2005
   Aged Care (Bond Security) Levy Bill 2005
5. Order of Business—Rearrangement ...................................... 1997
7. Questions .................................................................................. 1998
10. Petitions .................................................................................... 1999
11. Notices ...................................................................................... 1999
12. Leave of Absence ..................................................................... 2002
13. Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—
   Extension of Time to Report ..................................................... 2002
14. Postponement .......................................................................... 2002
15. Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—
   Extension of Time to Report ..................................................... 2002
16. Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Leave to
    Meet During Sitting ................................................................. 2003
17. Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Extension of
    Time to Report ......................................................................... 2003
18. Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Leave to Meet
    During Sitting ......................................................................... 2003
20. Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Leave to
    Meet During Sitting ................................................................. 2004
21. Cyclone Larry .......................................................................... 2004
22. Foreign Affairs—Mr David Hicks ............................................. 2004
23. Environment—Tasmania—Wedge Tailed Eagle ....................... 2005
24  Foreign Affairs—India—Uranium Exports ........................................................ 2006
25  Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—
    Extension of Time to Report................................................................. 2007
26  Indigenous Australians—Tasmania—Rock Art ................................................. 2007
27  Women—Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
    Against Women...................................................................................... 2008
28  Discussion of Matter of Public Importance—Communications—Australian
    Broadcasting Corporation .................................................................. 2008
29  Indigenous Australians—Tasmania—Rock Art ................................................. 2008
31  Parliamentary Zone—Capital Works Proposal—Documents ......................... 2009
32  Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Additional Information—
    Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for
33  Economics Legislation Committee—Additional Information—Budget
    Estimates 2003-04 and 2004-05 ............................................................. 2010
34  Treaties—Joint Statutory Committee—72nd Report........................................ 2010
35  Documents.............................................................................................. 2010
36  Departmental and Agency Contracts—Order for Production of
    Documents—Document........................................................................ 2011
37  Committees—Changes in Membership......................................................... 2011
38  Parliamentary Library—Joint Standing Committee—Appointment of House
    Members................................................................................................. 2011
39  Governor-General’s Message—Assent to Laws.............................................. 2011
40  Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
    References Committee—Report—Economic Impact of Salinity in the
    Australian Environment ......................................................................... 2011
42  Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Report—
    Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other
    Measures) Bill 2005 .............................................................................. 2012
43  Order of Business—Rearrangement............................................................. 2012
44  Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2006 ............................ 2012
45  Notice .................................................................................................... 2013
46  Tax Laws Amendment (2006 Measures No. 1) Bill 2006 .............................. 2013
47  Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2006 ............................ 2015
48  Adjournment .......................................................................................... 2017
49  Attendance............................................................................................... 2017
1 **MEETING OF SENATE**

The Senate met at 12.30 pm. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

2 **GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

The following government documents were tabled:

- **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission**—Telecommunications reports for 2004-05—Telstra’s compliance with price control arrangements.


- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Reports—
  - 2003-04—Corrigendum.
  - 2004-05—Corrigendum.


- **Migration Act 1958**—Section 91Y—Protection visa processing taking more than 90 days—Report for the period 1 July to 31 October 2005.


- **Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Act 2003**—Quarterly report on the Government co-contribution scheme for the period 1 October to 31 December 2005.


Treaties—

- **Bilateral**—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—

- **Multilateral**—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—
  - Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum, done at Port Moresby on 27 October 2005.
  - Agreement for Establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, done at Rome on 1 April 2004.
Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an
International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992, done
at London on 16 May 2003.

3 HOURS OF MEETING AND ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—VARIATION
The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison), at the request of the Minister
for Ageing (Senator Santoro) and pursuant to notice, moved government business
notice of motion no. 1—That, on Tuesday, 28 March 2006:
(a) the hours of meeting shall be 12.30 pm to 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm to adjournment;
(b) the routine of business from 7.30 pm shall be government business only; and
(c) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 11 pm.
Question put and passed.

4 AGED CARE (BOND SECURITY) BILL 2005
AGED CARE (BOND SECURITY) LEVY BILL 2005
AGED CARE AMENDMENT (2005 MEASURES NO. 1) BILL 2005
Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for
Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison)—That these bills be now read a second time.
Debate resumed.
Senator McLucas moved the following amendment:
At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate:
(a) notes:
(i) that there have been allegations of sexual abuse in five aged care
facilities in Australia, and
(ii) the only response, to date, from the Minister for Ageing (Senator
Santoro) to call together an existing aged care committee, which
whilst contains people with expertise in aged care, does not
include advocates of residents in aged care nor people with
specific experience in elder abuse;
(b) condemns the Government for failing to:
(i) conduct an independent inquiry to determine if there has been an
increase in sexual abuse of residents in aged care facilities,
(ii) respond to the report of the Community Affairs References
Committee, Quality and equity in aged care, tabled nearly
10 months ago, which recommended in part:
(A) that the Agency ensure that all facilities be subject to a
minimum of one annual random or targeted spot check and
at least one site visit with notification over its accredited
period (Recommendation 12),
(B) that the Commonwealth review the operations of the Aged
Care Complaints Resolution Scheme to ensure that the
Scheme:
(i) is accessible and responsive to complainants,
(ii) provides for a relaxation of the strict eligibility
criteria for accepting complaints,
(iii) registers all complaints as a complaint, with the complaints being categorised by their degree of severity, such as moderate level of complaint, complaints where mediation is required or where more significant levels of intervention are required, and

(iv) provides that the mediation process is responsive and open and that sufficient support for complainants is provided in this process (Recommendation 16),

(c) that the Commonwealth examine the feasibility of introducing whistleblower legislation to provide protection for people, especially staff of aged care facilities, disclosing allegations of inadequate standards of care or other deficiencies in aged care facilities (Recommendation 17), and

(d) that the Commissioner for Complaints conduct an investigation into the nature and extent of retribution and intimidation of residents in aged care facilities and their families, including the need for a national strategy to address this issue (Recommendation 18), and

(iii) answer, on 2 March 2006, the question without notice on whether there were any other aged care facilities in Australia being investigated for sexual abuse allegations; and

(c) calls on the Government to urgently restore community confidence in residential aged care in Australia.”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Main question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bills.

In the committee

Bills taken together and as a whole by leave.

Senator Bartlett moved the following amendment in respect of the Aged Care Amendment (2005 Measures No. 1) Bill 2005:

Page 20 (after line 11), at the end of the bill, add:

Schedule 8—Protection of information

Aged Care Act 1997

1 After section 86-8

Insert:

86-8A Whistleblowing disclosure that qualifies for protection

(1) Despite any other provision of this Act, a person may disclose protected information in accordance with this section.

(2) If a person makes a disclosure that qualifies for protection under this Part:
(a) the person is not subject to any civil or criminal liability for making the disclosure; and

(b) no contractual or other remedy may be enforced, and no contractual or other right may be exercised, against the person on the basis of the disclosure.

Note: This subsection does not provide that the person is not subject to any civil or criminal liability for conduct of the person that is revealed by the disclosure.

(3) Without limiting subsection (2):

(a) the person has qualified privilege (see subsection (4)) in respect of the disclosure; and

(b) a contract to which the person is a party may not be terminated on the basis that the disclosure constitutes a breach of the contract.

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (3)(a), qualified privilege, in respect of the disclosure, means that the person:

(a) has qualified privilege in proceedings for defamation; and

(b) is not, in the absence of malice on the person’s part, liable to an action for defamation at the suit of a person; in respect of the disclosure.

(5) For the purpose of paragraph (4)(b), malice includes ill-will to the person concerned or any other improper motive.

(6) This section does not limit or affect any right, privilege or immunity that a person has, apart from this section, as a defendant in proceedings, or an action, for defamation.

86-8B Protection for whistleblowers

For the avoidance of doubt, section 16 of the Public Service Act 1999 applies to an Australian Public Service employee performing functions in accordance with this Act.

86-8C Disclosures qualifying for protection under this Part

A disclosure of information by a person (the discloser) qualifies for protection under this Part if:

(a) the discloser is:

(i) an officer of a company or aged care service provider; or

(ii) an employee of a company or aged care service provider; or

(iii) a person who has a contract for the supply of services or goods to a company or aged care service provider; or

(iv) an employee of a person who has a contract for the supply of services or goods to a company or aged care service provider; and

(b) the disclosure is made to:

(i) ASIC; or

(ii) the company’s auditor or a member of an audit team conducting an audit of the company or aged care service provider; or

(iii) a director, secretary or senior manager of the company or aged care service provider; or
(iv) a person authorised by the company or aged care service provider to receive disclosures of that kind; or
(v) the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency; or
(vi) the Aged Care Complaints Resolution scheme.
(c) the discloser informs the person to whom the disclosure is made of the discloser’s name before making the disclosure; and
(d) the discloser has reasonable grounds to suspect that the information indicates that:
   (i) the company or aged care service provider has, or may have, contravened a provision of the Corporations legislation or the Aged Care Act 1997; or
   (ii) an officer or employee of the company or aged care service provider has, or may have, contravened a provision of the Corporations legislation or the Aged Care Act 1997; and
(e) the discloser makes the disclosure in good faith.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.
Bills agreed to.
Bills to be reported without amendments.

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) resumed the chair and the Chair of Committees reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro) the report from the committee was adopted and the bills read a third time.

5 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT
The Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of government business order of the day no. 4 (Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2005).
Question put and passed.

6 FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2005
Order of the day read for the further consideration of the bill in committee of the whole.

In the committee

Consideration resumed of the bill—and of the amendment moved by Senator Sherry, also on behalf of Senator Murray:

Schedule 3, page 24 (after line 3), before item 3, insert:

2C Before section 28

Insert:

27A Time limits for special appropriations

   (1) If a provision of an Act:
(a) has effect immediately before the commencement of this Act; and
(b) appropriates money; and
(c) does not specify the amount of money so appropriated;
the appropriation of money by that provision, unless otherwise provided by the Parliament, ceases to have effect at the expiration of the fourth year after the day the Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2006 receives the Royal Assent.

(2) Amounts otherwise payable under a special appropriation which ceases to have effect under subsection (1) are to be paid from money appropriated by the Parliament for that purpose.

(3) An appropriation under subsection (2) must not have effect for more than four financial years.

Debate ensued.
Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.
Bill agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) resumed the chair and the Chair of Committees reported accordingly.
On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Colbeck) the report from the committee was adopted and the bill read a third time.

At 2 pm—

7 QUESTIONS
Questions without notice were answered.

8 LAW AND JUSTICE—JIAN SENG TANKER—ANSWER TO QUESTION
Senator O’Brien moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) to a question without notice asked by Senator Ludwig today relating to border protection and the unmanned tanker Jian Seng.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

9 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—CHINA—URANIUM EXPORTS—ANSWER TO QUESTION
Senator Milne moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin) to a question without notice asked by Senator Milne today relating to the export of uranium to China.
Question put and passed.
10 **PETITIONS**

The following 3 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the senators indicated, were received:

Senator Faulkner, from 22 petitioners, requesting that the Senate take action to assist David Hicks to gain his release and be repatriated to Australia.

Senator Faulkner, from 69 petitioners, requesting that the Senate take action to ensure that the agreement signed by the Minister for Defence with the United States State Department relating to depleted uranium is tabled.

Senator Hogg, from 936 petitioners, requesting that the Senate take action to ensure that enough medical professionals are trained to maintain the quality care provided by hospitals and other health services.

11 **NOTICES**

Senator Kirk: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Joint Standing Committee on Migration be authorised to hold private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sittings of the Senate. *(general business notice of motion no. 405)*

Senator Lundy: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following matter be referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee for inquiry and report by the first sitting day in March 2007:

Women in sport and recreation in Australia, with particular reference to:

(a) the health benefits of women participating in sport and recreation activities;

(b) the accessibility for women of all ages to participate in organised sport, fitness and recreation activities, with additional reference to state and federal programs, including:

(i) the number of women actively participating in organised sport, fitness and recreation activities,

(ii) constraints, including strategies to overcome the constraints that may prevent participation in current structures,

(iii) the effectiveness of current state and federal grant programs that encourage women to participate,

(iv) the retention and attrition trends of grassroots participation, including comparisons with male athletes at a similar level,

(v) the remuneration, recruitment, retention and attrition of elite female athletes, including comparisons with elite male athletes,

(vi) retention of athletes competing in senior and open age state and national sporting competitions, with possible strategies to retain female competitors in elite and sub-elite competition,

(vii) opportunities and barriers for national team members and competitors in international competition, and

(viii) the financial status, success and viability of women’s national league competitions, including strategies to improve these factors;

(c) the portrayal of women’s sport in the media, including:

(i) the role of the government to regulate and review the coverage of women’s sport in the media (print, radio and electronic),

(ii) the influence of pay television on the coverage of women in sport,
(iii) the promotion and publicity of women’s national league competitions,
(iv) the financial status and success of women’s national leagues, and
(v) strategies to improve the amount and quality of media coverage for
women’s sport; and
(d) women in leadership roles in sport, including:
   (i) the number and proportion of women in coaching, administrative and
       officiating roles,
   (ii) the issues associated with women in leadership roles in both elite and
       grassroots activities,
   (iii) trends and issues for women in organisational leadership roles, and
   (iv) strategies to improve the numbers of women in coaching, administration
       and technical roles.

Senator Siewert: To move on 30 March 2006—That the Senate—

(a) notes:
   (i) that the Australian Government has not as yet stated a public policy
       position on genetic use restriction technologies (GURT), and has not
       yet undertaken a process of public consultation on GURT, and
   (ii) the recommendation of a working group at the United Nations meeting
       on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Brazil on Friday,
       24 March 2006, to uphold the existing de facto moratorium on GURT,
       which is expected to be confirmed by the CBD’s plenary session in the
       week beginning 27 March 2006; and
(b) calls on the Australian Government to:
   (i) cease all Australian Government advocacy of measures that would
       undermine the CBD’s moratorium on GURT,
   (ii) place a ban on research, development and use of GURT in Australia,
       and
   (iii) instruct all official delegates to future CBD meetings to advocate a
       complete and permanent international ban on GURT. (general business
       notice of motion no. 406)

Senator Conroy: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following matter be
referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
References Committee for inquiry and report by 8 August 2006:
The impact of proposed changes to cross media laws outlined in the Government’s
media reform options paper, with particular reference to:
   (a) the likely effect of the changes on media diversity in urban and regional media
       markets;
   (b) whether the safeguards proposed by the Government are adequate to prevent an
       excessive concentration of media ownership;
   (c) whether editorial separation, or a so-called two-out-of-three rule, would
       effectively protect media diversity; and
   (d) the impact of the proposed changes on the advertising market, particularly for
       small business.

The Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin): To move on the next
day of sitting—That, for the purposes of subsection 7(3) of the Snowy Hydro
Corporatisation Act 1997, the Senate approves the transfer or disposal of the
Commonwealth shares in the Snowy Hydro Company (incorporated under the name
Snowy Hydro Limited) that will occur as a result of the Commonwealth participating
in the Initial Public Offer process announced by the New South Wales Government on
16 December 2005.
The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan): To move on the next day of sitting—that the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*, and for related purposes. *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment Bill 2006*.

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (Senator Vanstone): To move on the next day of sitting—that the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to impose sanctions on persons who are connected with work by unlawful non-citizens or work in breach of visa conditions, and for related purposes. *Migration Amendment (Employer Sanctions) Bill 2006*.

The Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro): To move on the next day of sitting—that the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*, and for related purposes. *National Health and Medical Research Council Amendment Bill 2006*.

The Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin): To move on the next day of sitting—that the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to superannuation, and for related purposes. *Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) Bill 2006*.

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan) and the Minister for the Arts and Sport (Senator Kemp): To move on the next day of sitting—that the Senate—

(a) notes the sad passing of Kevin Charles (Pro) Hart, MBE on Tuesday, 28 March 2006;

(b) extends its sympathy to Mr Hart’s wife Raylee, his children John, Kym, Marie, Julie and David and to his extended family;

(c) recognises how Pro Hart used his well-documented ‘larrkin’ persona and iconic art to document how Australians see themselves and their history through rural and outback images and subjects; and

(d) records the significant contribution Pro Hart made to Australia and Australia’s cultural identity through many artistic mediums, including painting and sculpture over more than 40 years.

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

(a) notes:

(i) that Thursday, 30 March 2006 is Palestinian Land Day, and

(ii) the statement by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr Tony Blair, to the Australian Parliament on 27 March 2006 that ‘once the Israeli election has taken place, we must redouble our efforts to find a way to the only solution that works—a secure state of Israel and a viable, independent Palestinian state’; and

(b) calls on the Government to:

(i) support the formation of a ‘viable, independent Palestinian state’, and


*(general business notice of motion no. 407)*
Senator Stott Despoja: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) acknowledges:
   (i) the provision of Temporary Protection Visas by the Department of
       Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to the West Papuan asylum
       seekers who arrived in Australia in January 2006, and
   (ii) the need for an end to the ongoing human rights abuses in West Papua;
(b) recognises:
   (i) that a commitment to the formal process of special autonomy for the
       province of Papua, that began in 2001, is integral to the peaceful
       solution of the conflict in Papua,
   (ii) the partitioning of Papua into the provinces of West Irian Jaya and
       Papua is unconstitutional and in contravention of article 76 of the special
       autonomy law 2001, and that there is no legal basis for the province of
       West Irian Jaya, and
   (iii) that the partitioning of Papua has been strongly rejected by the Papuan
       population, the churches, civil society and the parliament; and
(c) calls on the Australian Government to support and encourage President Susilo
    Bambang Yudhoyono to continue to push forward his reform agenda for Papua
    as he has done in Aceh, and implement special autonomy for Papua. (general
    business notice of motion no. 408)

12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Senator George Campbell, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to
Senator Fielding for the period 28 March to 30 March 2006 for personal reasons.
Question put and passed.

13 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—
EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT
Senator Ferris, by leave and at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional
Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan), moved—That the
time for the presentation of the report of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
 Legislation Committee on the 2005-06 additional estimates be extended to 30 March
2006.
Question put and passed.

14 POSTPONEMENT
The following item of business was postponed:
   General business notice of motion no. 334 standing in the name of Senator Bartlett
for today, relating to sexual assault of children in Australia, postponed till
30 March 2006.

15 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—
EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT
Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and
Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan) and pursuant to notice of
motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion
no. 394—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Rural and Regional
Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on annual reports tabled by 31 October
2005 be extended to 10 May 2006.
Question put and passed.
16 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—
LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING
Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 395—That the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 29 March 2006, from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the administration by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of the citrus canker outbreak.
Question put and passed.

17 FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT
Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee (Senator Mason) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 396—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on the 2005-06 additional estimates be extended to 30 March 2006.
Question put and passed.

18 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING
Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Senator Hutchins) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 397—That the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Tuesday, 28 March 2006, from 4.15 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into naval shipbuilding in Australia.
Question put and passed.

19 ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO REPORT
Senator Ferris, 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. 398—That the time for the presentation of the following reports of the Economics Legislation Committee be extended to 30 March 2006:

(a) 2005-06 additional estimates; and
(b) annual reports tabled by 31 October 2005.
Question put and passed.
20 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—
LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services (Senator Chapman) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 399—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, 29 March 2006, from 5 pm to 7.45 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into corporate responsibility. Question put and passed.

21 CYCLONE LARRY

Senator Ludwig, also on behalf of the Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell), the Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro), and Senators Bartlett, Brandis, Hogg, Ian Macdonald, McLucas, Mason, Moore and Trood, amended general business notice of motion no. 400 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—That the Senate—
(a) notes:
   (i) the devastating impact that Cyclone Larry has had on the area of far north Queensland and the loss and hardship that this has inflicted on local residents, and
   (ii) with pride the tenacity and spirit of citizens in the affected region in rebuilding their communities;
(b) expresses its appreciation for all the hard work of:
   (i) volunteers,
   (ii) emergency service workers, and
   (iii) Army personnel;
(c) notes the generous financial assistance of:
   (i) members of public, and
   (ii) the business community;
(d) welcomes the appointment of General Peter Cosgrove to head the relief operation;
(e) shows its support for those Queenslanders affected; and
(f) acknowledges the actions of state, local and federal governments in helping those in need and in rebuilding communities.
Question put and passed. All Australian Greens senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

22 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—MR DAVID HICKS

Senator Stott Despoja amended general business notice of motion no. 393 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—That the Senate—
(a) notes the United Nations report condemning the operation of Guantanamo Bay as a military detention facility;
(b) supports calls by the British Prime Minister, Mr Blair, to close the military detention camp in Guantanamo Bay;
(c) notes the decision by the Government of the United States of America to release 119 detainees from the facility to their countries of citizenship; and

(d) calls on the Australian Government to either facilitate the repatriation of an Australian citizen, Mr David Hicks, now held at the facility for more than 4 years, or to insist that he is provided with a fair trial in accordance with his basic human rights.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 31

Senators—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allison</th>
<th>Crossin</th>
<th>Lundy</th>
<th>Polley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bartlett</td>
<td>Faulkner</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>Ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>Forshaw</td>
<td>McEwen</td>
<td>Stott Despoja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Bob</td>
<td>Hogg</td>
<td>Milne</td>
<td>Webber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Carol</td>
<td>Hurley</td>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>Wong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell, G (Teller)</td>
<td>Hutchins</td>
<td>Murray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carr</td>
<td>Kirk</td>
<td>Nettle</td>
<td>Wortley</td>
</tr>
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NOES, 33

Senators—

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Question negatived.

23 Environment—Tasmania—Wedge Tailed Eagle

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 404—That the Senate—

(a) notes a study by the University of Melbourne and Forestry Tasmania which estimates that the threat of extinction of the Tasmanian wedge tailed eagle in north east Tasmania rises from 65 per cent to 99 per cent if current logging plans go ahead; and

(b) calls on the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments to address this finding by altering the proposed logging so that the eagle’s prospects of survival are improved rather than worsened.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

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2006

No. 77—28 March 2006

NOES, 41

Senators—

Abetz
Adams
Bishop
Brandis
Brown, Carol
Campbell, George
Carr
Colbeck
Conroy
Crossin
Eggleston
Ellison
Ferguson
Ferris (Teller)
Fifield
Forshaw
Hogg
Humphries
Hurley
Hutchins
Kirk

Lightfoot
Lundy
Marshall
Mason
McEwen
Moore
Nash
Parry
Patterson
Polley
Ray

Ronaldson
Scullion
Troeth
Trood
Vanstone
Webber
Wong
Wortley

Question negatived.

24 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—INDIA—URANIUM EXPORTS

Senator Milne, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved
general business notice of motion no. 402—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) Prime Minister John Howard has recently equivocated on the export of
uranium to India, in spite of the fact that India is not a signatory to the
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and

(ii) India has a well-developed, active and secret program to outfit its
uranium enrichment program and circumvent other countries’
technology export control efforts, according to a recently-released report
by the United States of America (US) based Institute of Science and
International Security; and

(b) calls on the Australian Government to rule out the export of uranium to India
and to use its membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to block the
proposed US-India nuclear technology agreement.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

Allison
Brown, Bob

Milne
Murray

Nettle
Siewert (Teller)

Stott Despoja

NOES, 41

Senators—

Abetz
Adams
Bishop
Brandis
Brown, Carol
Campbell, George
Carr
Colbeck
Conroy
Crossin
Eggleston
Ellison
Ferguson
Ferris (Teller)
Fifield
Forshaw
Hogg
Humphries
Hurley
Hutchins
Kirk

Lightfoot
Lundy
Marshall
Mason
McEwen
Moore
Nash
Parry
Patterson
Polley
Ray

Ronaldson
Scullion
Troeth
Trood
Vanstone
Webber
Wong
Wortley

Question negatived.
25 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT

The Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (Senator Siewert), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 401—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee on water policy initiatives be extended to the last sitting day in June 2006.

Question put and passed.

26 INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—TASMANIA—ROCK ART

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 403—That the Senate—

(a) condemns the most recent vandalism of ancient Aboriginal rock art on Tasmania’s Tarkine coastline;

(b) expresses its abhorrence at the vandalism;

(c) sends its sympathy to Tasmania’s Aboriginal community;

(d) calls on the Tasmanian Government to vigorously pursue, discover and bring to justice those responsible; and

(e) asks the Commonwealth to take all due action to uphold the Burra Charter, to bring those responsible for this outrage to justice and to prevent any recurrence of such destructive behaviour against Australia’s heritage.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 32

Senators—


Senators—

ABETZ, Adams Barnett Brandis Chapman Colbeck Eggleston Ellison Ferguson Ferris (Teller) Fierravanti-Wells Fifield Hefferman Kemp Lightfoot Macdonald, Sandy Mason McGauran Minchin Nash Parry Patterson Payne Ronaldson Santoro Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion Scullion 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27 WOMEN—CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Senator Stott Despoja, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 368—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee’s 34th session was held in New York from 16 January to 3 February 2006,

(ii) the 34th session examined the Australian Government’s combined fourth and fifth periodic reports on 30 January 2006, and the Australian non-government organisation (NGO) shadow report on the Implementation of CEDAW, prepared by the Women’s Rights Action Network Australia and endorsed by more than 100 organisations, on 23 January 2006,

(iii) the shadow report acknowledged that there ‘have been clear improvements in the status of women during this reporting cycle’, but a number of challenges remain for women in Australia, particularly in the areas of violence against women, leadership and political participation, law and justice, housing and utilities, health, education, and economic security and employment, and

(iv) the shadow report makes a number of recommendations in each of these areas, noting changes which must be implemented if CEDAW is to be fully realised in Australia;

(b) congratulates all those involved in contributing to and compiling the Australian NGO shadow report; and

(c) calls on the Government to implement the recommendations contained in the shadow report before the Australian Government presents its combined fifth and sixth periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee in 2008.

Question put and negatived.

28 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMMUNICATIONS—AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) informed the Senate that Senator Conroy had proposed that the following matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion:

The Government’s continuing attempts to undermine the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The proposal was supported by four senators and the matter was discussed.

29 INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—TASMANIA—ROCK ART

Statements by leave: Senator Ferris, the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) and Senator Marshall, by leave, made statements relating to general business notice of motion no. 403 (see entry no. 26).

Senator Ferris asked that the question on general business notice of motion no. 403 be put again.

Leave was granted for the question to be put again.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put again.
The Senate divided—

**AYES, 29**

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Question negatived.

30 **AUDITOR-GENERAL—AUDIT REPORT NO. 35 OF 2005-06—DOCUMENT**

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Murray) tabled the following document:


31 **PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—CAPITAL WORKS PROPOSAL—DOCUMENTS**

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) tabled the following documents:

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Proposal, together with supporting documentation, relating to the construction of the National Portrait Gallery.

*Notice of motion:* Senator Ellison, by leave, gave a notice of motion as follows: To move on 30 March 2006—that, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the Senate approves the proposal by the National Capital Authority for capital works within the Parliamentary Zone, being the construction of the National Portrait Gallery.

*Statement by leave:* Senator Ellison, by leave, made a statement relating to the matter.

32 **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—THERAPEUTIC GOODS AMENDMENT (REPEAL OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPROVAL OF RU486) BILL 2005 [2006]**

Senator Scullion, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Humphries), tabled the following documents:

Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Report—Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005 [2006]—Correspondence and additional information.
33 **ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—BUDGET ESTIMATES 2003-04 AND 2004-05**

Senator Scullion, at the request of the Chair of the Economics Legislation Committee (Senator Brandis), tabled the following additional information received by the committee:

Economics Legislation Committee—
- Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)—
  - Volume 1—Treasury portfolio.
  - Volumes 2 and 3—Industry, Tourism and Resources portfolio.
- Budget estimates 2004-05—Volumes 2 to 4—Industry, Tourism and Resources portfolio.

34 **TREATIES—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—72ND REPORT**

Senator Wortley, on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, tabled the following report:


Senator Wortley, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Wortley in continuation.

35 **DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

*Legislative instruments are identified by a Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) number*

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<th>Act/Order</th>
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<td>Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2005-2006</td>
<td>Advance to the Finance Minister—Determination No. 6 of 2005-2006</td>
<td>F2006L00916*</td>
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<td>3 of 2006—Topic to be Included as a Supplement to the Monthly Population Survey: Child Employment.</td>
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<td>Census and Statistics Act—Statement No. 1 of 2006—</td>
<td>Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.</td>
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<td>Customs Act—Tariff Concession Orders—</td>
<td>0512930 [F2006L00899]*.</td>
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<td>0601824 [F2006L00906]*.</td>
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<td>Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman [F2006L00928]*.</td>
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National Health Act—Determination HIB 13/2006 [F2006L00898]*.
* Explanatory statement tabled with legislative instrument.

36 **DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY CONTRACTS—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—DOCUMENT**
The following document was tabled pursuant to the order of the Senate of 20 June 2001, as amended:
Departmental and agency contracts for 2005—Letter of advice—Attorney-General’s portfolio agencies.

37 **COMMITTEES—CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Murray) informed the Senate that the President had received a letter from Senator McGauran resigning from the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, pursuant to the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*.
Senator Murray also informed the Senate that the President had received a letter requesting a change in the membership of a committee.
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Colbeck), by leave, moved—That Senator Crossin be discharged from and Senator Carr be appointed to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.
Question put and passed.

38 **PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF HOUSE MEMBERS**
A message from the House of Representatives was reported informing the Senate of the appointment of members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Library, as follows:
Message no. 300, dated 27 March 2006—Mr Adams, Mr Hatton and Mr BP O’Connor.

39 **GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S MESSAGE—ASSENT TO LAWS**
A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was reported, informing the Senate that he had assented to the following laws:
23 March 2006—Message No. 5—
*Fisheries Legislation Amendment (Cooperative Fisheries Arrangements and Other Matters) Act 2006* (Act No. 8, 2006)

40 **ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REPORT—ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SALINITY IN THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT**
Pursuant to order, the Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee (Senator Bartlett) tabled the following report and documents:
Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—Living with salinity—A report on progress: The extent and economic impact of salinity in Australia—Report, dated March 2006, Hansard record of proceedings, documents presented to the committee, additional information and submissions [50].

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Bartlett.

Senator Bartlett, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

On the motion of Senator Sterle the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

41 **LEGISLATION COMMITTEES—REPORTS—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2005-06**

Pursuant to order, Senator Scullion, at the request of the chairs of the respective committees, tabled the following reports, dated March 2006, and documents:

Additional estimates 2005-06—
- Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Report and Hansard record of proceedings [2 vols].
- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee—Report, Hansard record of proceedings [2 vols] and documents presented to the committee.
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee—Report and Hansard record of proceedings [2 vols].
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—Report and Hansard record of proceedings [2 vols].
- Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—Report and Hansard record of proceedings [2 vols].

Reports ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Scullion.

42 **FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—REPORT—ELECTORAL AND REFERENDUM AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL INTEGRITY AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2005**

Pursuant to order, Senator Scullion, at the request of the Chair of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee (Senator Mason), tabled the following report and documents:


Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Scullion.

43 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT**

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Colbeck) moved—That government business order of the day no. 2 (Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2006) be postponed till a later hour.

Question put and passed.

44 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

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

Debate resumed.
Question put and passed.
Bill read a second time.
The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) moved—that consideration of the bill in committee of the whole be an order of the day for a later hour.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

45 NOTICE
The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) gave a notice of motion as follows: To move on the next day of sitting—that the motion by the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin) for the divestment of the Commonwealth’s shareholding in Snowy Hydro Ltd be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by 30 June 2006.

46 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (2006 MEASURES NO. 1) BILL 2006
A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:
Message no. 301, dated 28 March 2006—a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.
The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) moved—that this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.
Question put and passed.
Bill read a first time.
Senator Ellison moved—that this bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
Bill read a second time.
The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bill.

In the committee
Bill, taken as a whole by leave, debated.
Senator Sherry moved the following amendment:
Schedule 2, page 39 (after line 10), after Part 2, insert:

Part 2A—Other business related costs
Income Tax Assessment Act 1997
50A Subsection 26-52(4)
Repeal the subsection, substitute:
(4) An amount is not a bribe to a foreign public official if:
(a) it is incurred for the sole or dominant purpose of expediting or securing the performance of a routine government action of a minor nature; and
(b) the value of the benefit was of a minor nature; and
(c) as soon as practicable after the loss or outgoing was incurred, the person made a record of the loss or outgoing and the record complies with subsection 70.4(3) of the Criminal Code Act 1995.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

AYES, 32

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Stephens

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Stott Despoja

Webber

Wong

Wortley

NOES, 35

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Lightfoot

Macdonald, Ian

Macdonald, Sandy

Mason

McGauran

Minchin

Nash

Parry

Patterson

Payne

Ronaldson

Santoro

Scullion

Troeht

Trood

Vanstone

Watson

Question negatived.

Senator Murray moved the following amendment:

Schedule 1, item 2, page 18 (line 5), omit “*spouse”, substitute “*spouse, being a person who is living with another person on a bona fide domestic basis although not legally married to that other person, including a same sex partner,.”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Lightfoot) resumed the chair and the Chair of Committees (Senator Hogg) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan) the report from the committee was adopted and the bill read a third time.
Bill debated.

On the motion of Senator Ellison the following amendment was debated and agreed to:

Clause 2, page 2 (table item 2), omit the table item, substitute:

2. Schedules 1 to 3
   A single day to be fixed by Proclamation.

   However, if any of the provision(s) do not commence within the period of 6 months beginning on the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent, they commence on the first day after the end of that period.

Senator Ludwig moved the following amendments together by leave:

Page 3 (after line 8), after clause 3, add:

4 Sunset clause
   The amendments set out in Schedule 2 of this Act cease to be in force on 30 June 2011.

Schedule 2, page 63 (after line 30), at the end of the Schedule, add:

14 After section 61A
   Insert:

61C Review of operation of B-party warrants

   (1) The Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of warrants to which subparagraph 46(1)(d)(ii) or 9(1)(a)(ia) applies to be undertaken within 12 months of the third anniversary of the commencement of the Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Act 2006.

   (2) A person who undertakes such a review must give the Minister a written report.

   (3) The Minister must cause a copy of the report of the review to be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 5 sitting days after the Minister receives the report.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.
The committee divided—

AYES, 30

Senators—

Allison
Bartlett
Bishop
Brown, Bob
Brown, Carol
Campbell, George
Carr
Conroy
Crossin
Faulkner
Forshaw
Hogg
Hurley
Hutchins
Kirk
Ludwig

Marshall
McEwen
Moore
Murray
Nettle
O’Brien
Polley
Ray

Siewert
Stephens
Sterle
Stott Despoja
Webber (Teller)
Wong

NOES, 33

Senators—

Abetz
Adams
Barnett
Boswell
Brandis
Calvert
Chapman
Colbeck
Coonan
Eggleston
Ferguson
Fierravanti-Wells
Fifield
Heffernan
Humphries
Johnston
Kemp
Lightfoot

Macdonald, Ian
Macdonald, Sandy
Mason
McGauran
Nash
Parry
Patterson
Payne
Ronaldson

Santoro
Scullion (Teller)
Troeth
Trood
Vanstone
Watson

Question negatived.
The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) moved the following amendment:

Schedule 1, page 4 (after line 4), before item 1, insert:

1A After section 2

Insert:

2A Limitations of operation of Act

It is the intention of the Parliament that:

(1) To the extent that there is any inconsistency between this Act and Australia’s obligations under international treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Australia’s obligations under those treaties prevail and override the operation of this Act.

(2) Nothing in this Act authorises the interception of communications:

(a) of a person unless the person is suspected of engaging in the planning of, or other involvement in, terrorist acts or murder;

(b) where those communications contain information which is:

(i) the subject of legal professional privilege; or

(ii) derived from information that is the subject of legal professional privilege;

(c) where those communications contain information:

(i) the subject of doctor-patient confidential medical communications; or

(ii) derived from information that is the subject of doctor-patient confidential medical communications;

(d) of Federal or State Members of Parliament;

(e) of High Court judges or Federal Court judges.
At 11 pm: The Acting Deputy President (Senator Moore) resumed the chair and the Temporary Chair of Committees (Senator Watson) reported progress.

48 ADJOURNMENT
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Moore) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.

The Senate continued to sit till midnight—
WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2006 AM

Debate continued.
The Senate adjourned at 12.03 am till Wednesday, 29 March 2006 at 9.30 am.

49 ATTENDANCE
Present, all senators except Senators Fielding* and Joyce (* on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate

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