

2004-06

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 93

THURSDAY, 10 AUGUST 2006

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1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

2 PETITION

The following petition, lodged with the Clerk by Senators Crossin, Bartlett and Siewert, was received:

From 22 260 petitioners, requesting that the Senate delay the vote on the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Bill 2006 to allow time for proper consideration.

3 NOTICES

Senator Bartlett: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to remove unnecessary and unjust ministerial discretion relating to assessments of the character and conduct of visa applicants, and for related purposes. ***Migration Legislation Amendment (Provisions Relating to Character and Conduct) Bill 2006.*** (*general business notice of motion no. 484*)

Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—That, in recognition of Australia's growing water management issues and the role that recycling may be able to play in helping to sustainably meet the demands for water, the Senate urges the Government to establish a full-scale demonstration water recycling plant as part of an initiative to inform decision-making on Australia's future water sources. (*general business notice of motion no. 485*)

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Watson): To move 15 sitting days after today—That the Broadcasting Services (Anti-terrorism Requirements for Open Narrowcasting Television Services) Standard 2006, made under subsection 125(2) of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, be disallowed.

Senator Watson, by leave, made a statement relating to the notice of motion.

4 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) moved—That the following government business orders of the day be considered from 12.45 pm till not later than 2 pm today:

No. 8 Trade Practices Amendment (National Access Regime) Bill 2006.

No. 1 Australian Technical Colleges (Flexibility in Achieving Australia's Skills Needs) Amendment Bill 2006—second reading speeches only.

Question put and passed.

Senator Ellison moved—That the order of general business for consideration today be as follows:

(a) general business notice of motion no. 481 standing in the name of Senator Carr relating to housing and accommodation affordability; and

(b) orders of the day relating to government documents.

Question put and passed.

The Chair of the Procedure Committee (Senator Hogg), by leave, moved—That business of the Senate order of the day no. 1, relating to the presentation of the report of the Procedure Committee on the proposal to alter the structure of the Senate committee system, be postponed till a later hour.

Question put and passed.

5 POSTPONEMENTS

The following items of business were postponed:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of Senator Crossin for today, proposing the reference of a matter to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee, postponed till 4 September 2006.

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in the name of Senator Ludwig for today, proposing the reference of a matter to the Legal and Constitutional References Committee, postponed till 15 August 2006.

6 TRANSPORT—OIL PRICES AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Senator Milne, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 482—That the Senate—

- (a) recognises that the global price of oil is likely to continue to rise because of dwindling global supply, ongoing demand including from the rapidly growing economies of China and India, limited and inflexible refining capacity, interrupted supply because of climate change related storms and infrastructure damage in addition to geo-political factors;
- (b) endorses the development of a national strategy to reduce Australia's dependence on oil; and
- (c) calls on the Government to:
 - (i) establish a Council of Australian Governments process to begin redesigning Australian cities with a view to investing in public transport to reduce car dependence,
 - (ii) introduce mandatory vehicle fuel efficiency standards for all new motor vehicles, and
 - (iii) invest in the development of alternative fuels.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

Allison
Bartlett

Brown, Bob
Milne

Nettle
Siewert (Teller)

Stott Despoja

NOES, 47

Senators—

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Adams | Coonan | Joyce | Polley |
| Barnett | Eggleston | Kirk | Ray |
| Bernardi | Ellison | Ludwig | Ronaldson |
| Bishop | Evans | Macdonald, Ian | Scullion |
| Boswell | Faulkner | Marshall | Sterle |
| Brandis | Ferris (Teller) | McEwen | Troeth |
| Brown, Carol | Fierravanti-Wells | McLucas | Trood |
| Calvert | Forshaw | Moore | Watson |
| Campbell, George | Hogg | O'Brien | Webber |
| Carr | Hurley | Parry | Wong |
| Chapman | Hutchins | Patterson | Wortley |
| Colbeck | Johnston | Payne | |

Question negatived.

7 ENVIRONMENT—TASMANIA—TARKINE WILDERNESS

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. 468—That the Senate calls on the Government to assess Tasmania's Tarkine wilderness with a view to nomination for listing for its World Heritage values, including those related to its:

- (a) Aboriginal values;
- (b) non-Aboriginal values;
- (c) natural, forest and wildlife values;
- (d) wilderness values; and
- (e) geological values.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Allison | Brown, Bob | Nettle | Stott Despoja |
| Bartlett | Milne | Siewert (Teller) | |

NOES, 48

Senators—

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Adams | Coonan | Johnston | Payne |
| Barnett | Eggleston | Joyce | Polley |
| Bernardi | Ellison | Kirk | Ray |
| Bishop | Evans | Ludwig | Ronaldson |
| Boswell | Faulkner | Macdonald, Ian | Scullion |
| Brandis | Ferguson | Marshall | Sterle |
| Brown, Carol | Ferris (Teller) | McEwen | Troeth |
| Calvert | Fierravanti-Wells | McLucas | Trood |
| Campbell, George | Forshaw | Moore | Watson |
| Carr | Hogg | O'Brien | Webber |
| Chapman | Hurley | Parry | Wong |
| Colbeck | Hutchins | Patterson | Wortley |

Question negatived.

8 TRANSPORT—PETROL PRICES

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 480—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) record high prices of petrol in Australia are likely to increase due to recent wars in the Middle East, a diminishing number of significant oil reserves being discovered in the past decade and world-wide demand that is expected to exceed production sometime between 2010 and 2025,
- (ii) Australian oil production has diminished and currently around 65 per cent of all oil consumed is imported, and
- (iii) oil used in transport produces 17 per cent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions;

(b) notes also that:

- (i) oil companies are still reluctant to market biofuels and are unlikely to meet their Biofuels Action Plan targets for uptake in the 2006-07 financial year, and
- (ii) the Government has consistently undermined alternative fuels, imposing excise commencing in 2012, cutting excise on diesel, forcing onerous testing on small biodiesel producers and providing billions of dollars to the automobile industry without leveraging fuel efficiency or alternative fuel conversions; and

(c) urges the Government to:

- (i) release the report of its June 2006 review of the Biofuels Action Plan,
- (ii) keep excise off alternative fuels,
- (iii) mandate a proportion of petrol and diesel to be blended with at least 10 per cent biofuel,
- (iv) fund compressed natural gas refuelling stations,
- (v) provide incentives to motorists and automobile manufacturers to take up alternative fuel and fuel efficient vehicles, and
- (vi) invest in better public transport, bike and walk ways and freight rail.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

Allison
Bartlett (Teller)

Brown, Bob
Milne

Nettle
Siewert

Stott Despoja

NOES, 53

Senators—

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Adams | Eggleston | Kirk | Ray |
| Barnett | Ellison | Lightfoot | Ronaldson |
| Bernardi | Evans | Ludwig | Santoro |
| Bishop | Faulkner | Macdonald, Ian | Scullion |
| Boswell | Ferguson | Macdonald, Sandy | Sterle |
| Brandis | Ferris (Teller) | McEwen | Troeth |
| Brown, Carol | Fierravanti-Wells | McGauran | Trood |
| Calvert | Fifield | McLucas | Watson |
| Campbell, George | Forshaw | Moore | Webber |
| Carr | Hogg | O'Brien | Wong |
| Chapman | Hurley | Parry | Wortley |
| Colbeck | Hutchins | Patterson | |
| Coonan | Johnston | Payne | |
| Crossin | Joyce | Polley | |

Question negatived.

9 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—LEBANON AND ISRAEL

Senator Nettle amended general business notice of motion no. 478 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the details of any ceasefire in the Middle East will be controversial but, given the ongoing loss of life, any immediate ceasefire is better than no ceasefire; and
- (b) calls on the Australian Government to support an immediate ceasefire.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 7

Senators—

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Allison | Brown, Bob | Nettle | Stott Despoja |
| Bartlett | Milne | Siewert (Teller) | |

NOES, 52

Senators—

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Adams | Crossin | Joyce | Payne |
| Barnett | Eggleston | Kirk | Polley |
| Bernardi | Ellison | Lightfoot | Ray |
| Bishop | Evans | Ludwig | Ronaldson |
| Boswell | Faulkner | Macdonald, Ian | Santoro |
| Brandis | Ferguson | Macdonald, Sandy | Scullion |
| Brown, Carol | Ferris (Teller) | McEwen | Sterle |
| Calvert | Fierravanti-Wells | McGauran | Troeth |
| Campbell, George | Fifield | McLucas | Trood |
| Carr | Hogg | Moore | Watson |
| Chapman | Hurley | O'Brien | Webber |
| Colbeck | Hutchins | Parry | Wong |
| Coonan | Johnston | Patterson | Wortley |

Question negatived.

10 POSTPONEMENT

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown), by leave, moved—That general business notice of motion no. 483 standing in his name for today, relating to Lebanon, be postponed till 15 August 2006.

Question put and passed.

11 DIVISIONS ON THURSDAYS—TEMPORARY ORDER

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan), at the request of the Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—That the following operate as a temporary order until 30 June 2007:

If a division is called for on Thursday after 4.30 pm, the matter before the Senate shall be adjourned until the next day of sitting at a time fixed by the Senate.

Question put and passed.

12 AUSTRALIA-JAPAN FOUNDATION (REPEAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 2006

A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:

Message no. 367, dated 9 August 2006—A Bill for an Act to repeal the *Australia-Japan Foundation Act 1976*, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan) 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 Coonan moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

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

13 AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGES (FLEXIBILITY IN ACHIEVING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS) AMENDMENT BILL 2006

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Senator Wong moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate condemns the Government for:

- (a) creating a skills crisis during its 10 long years in office;
- (b) its continued failure to provide the necessary opportunities for Australians to get the training they need to get a decent job and meet the skills needs of the economy;
- (c) reducing the overall percentage of the Federal Budget spent on vocational education and training, and allowing this percentage of spending to further decline over the forward estimates period;

- (d) its incompetent handling of the Australian Technical Colleges initiative as evidenced by only five out of 25 colleges being open for business, enrolling fewer than 350 students;
- (e) failing to be open and accountable about the operations of Australian Technical Colleges, including details of extra student enrolments, funding levels for the individual colleges, course structures and programs;
- (f) denying local communities their promised Australian Technical College because of their ideological industrial relations requirements; and
- (g) failing to provide enough extra skills training so that Australia can meet the expected shortfall of 100 000 skilled workers by 2010”.

Debate ensued.

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

Main 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.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Colbeck) moved—That this bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

14 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Colbeck) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of government business order of the day no. 8 (Trade Practices Amendment (National Access Regime) Bill 2006).

Question put and passed.

15 TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT (NATIONAL ACCESS REGIME) BILL 2006

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence (Senator Sandy Macdonald)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Senator Stephens moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate condemns the Government for:

- (a) delaying the introduction of this bill for almost 3 years since the Productivity Commission report was released;
- (b) failing to amend Part IIIA of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* to include the pricing principles in the bill;
- (c) failing to produce a single, clear and pro-competitive legislative framework for infrastructure regulation; and
- (d) failing to advance meaningful reform of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*”.

Debate ensued.

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

Main 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 Senator Sandy Macdonald the bill was read a third time.

Suspension of sitting: On the motion of Senator Sandy Macdonald the sitting of the Senate was suspended at 1.14 pm till 2 pm.

At 2 pm—

16 MINISTRY AND MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Minchin), by leave, informed the Senate of changes to the Howard Ministry.

Document: Senator Minchin tabled a document showing all members of the Howard Ministry, dated 10 August 2006.

17 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

18 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Senator Conroy moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by ministers to questions without notice asked today.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

19 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMMUNICATIONS— BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

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 Australian Government's complacency on the roll-out of broadband infrastructure is holding back the Australian economy as evidenced by:

- (a) the OECD, the World Economic Forum and the World Bank all recognising Australia's status as a broadband backwater;
- (b) media leaders from Fairfax and PBL identifying Australia's antiquated broadband infrastructure as a constraint to their business; and
- (c) the collapse of Telstra's plans to construct a fibre to the node network leaving Australia without a pathway to a fibre based upgrade of Australia's broadband infrastructure.

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

At 4.30 pm: The Acting Deputy President (Senator Watson) reminded the Senate that the standing orders provide for general business to be called on at this time.

Leave was granted to enable the tabling of certain documents and for a motion relating to the membership of committees to be moved prior to the commencement of general business.

20 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—65TH REPORT

The Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro) tabled the following document:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—65th report—Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (3) and 8 February 2005—Government response.

21 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

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

Customs Act—Tariff Concession Orders—

0604352 [F2006L02631]*.

0607263 [F2006L02630]*.

0608153 [F2006L02550]*.

0608189 [F2006L02626]*.

0608554 [F2006L02627]*.

0608560 [F2006L02628]*.

0608570 [F2006L02644]*.

0608610 [F2006L02645]*.

0608689 [F2006L02646]*.

0608690 [F2006L02647]*.

0608962 [F2006L02629]*.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58H—Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal Determinations Nos—

8 of 2006—Salary Rates for Senior Officers Reserve Forces.

10 of 2006—Salary of Chief of Capability Development Group.

11 of 2006—Salary for Senior Officer.

12 of 2006—Salary for Senior Officer.

13 of 2006—Salary for Senior Officer.

14 of 2006—Salary for Senior Officer.

15 of 2006—Salary for Senior Officer.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—Threat Abatement Plan to Reduce the Impacts of Tramp Ants on Biodiversity in Australia and its Territories [F2006L02611]*.

* Explanatory statement tabled with legislative instrument.

22 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—FIRST REPORT OF 2006

Pursuant to order, the Chair of the Procedure Committee (Senator Hogg) tabled the following report and documents:

Procedure—Standing Committee—First report of 2006—Restructuring the committee system, dated August 2006 and additional information.

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

Senator Hogg, by leave, moved—That consideration of the report be made a business of the Senate order of the day for the next day of sitting.

Question put and passed.

23 COMMITTEES—CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Watson) informed the Senate that the President had received letters requesting changes in the membership of committees.

The Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro), by leave, moved—That senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

**Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
References Committee—**

Discharged—Senator Marshall

Appointed—Senator Webber

Legal and Constitutional References Committee—

Appointed—Substitute member: Senator Moore to replace Senator Ludwig for the committee's inquiry into Indigenous workers whose paid labour was controlled by Government.

Question put and passed.

General business was called on.

24 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Senator Carr, pursuant to notice, moved general business notice of motion no. 481—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the Howard Government for its failure to address the widely acknowledged affordability crisis in Australia's rental and home ownership markets; and
- (b) calls on the Howard Government to show leadership on this critical issue by working with state, territory and local governments, industry, business and the not-for-profit sector to develop a national housing strategy.

Debate ensued.

Senator Bartlett moved the following amendment:

Omit paragraph (a), substitute:

- (a) condemns the Howard Government and the state and territory Labor governments for their failure to address the widely acknowledged affordability crisis in Australia's rental and home ownership markets; and

Debate ensued.

At 6 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Sherry was speaking.

25 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS—ORDERS OF THE DAY—CONSIDERATION

The following orders of the day relating to government documents were considered:

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Siewert to take note of document debated and agreed to.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document debated and agreed to.

Department of Defence—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Stephens to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Hogg in continuation.

Migration Agents Registration Authority—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document agreed to.

Australia-China Council—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Marshall to take note of document agreed to.

Bilateral treaty—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the Promotion and Protection of Investments, done at Canberra on 16 June 2005. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document agreed to.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

North Queensland Land Council Aboriginal Corporation—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report—No. 31—Inquiry into a complaint by Mr Zacharias Manongga, Consul for the Northern Territory, Consul of the Republic of Indonesia that the human rights of Indonesian fishers detained on vessels in Darwin Harbour were breached by the Commonwealth of Australia. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited (ARTC)—Report for 2004-05. Motion of Senator Webber to take note of document called on. On the motion of Senator Marshall debate was adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Multilateral treaty—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—Amendments, done at Nairobi, Kenya on 25 November 2005, to Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, done at Bonn on 23 June 1979. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Act 2003—Quarterly report on the Government co-contribution scheme for the period 1 July to 30 September 2005. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002 and *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002*—Legislation Review Committee—Report on the review of the Acts, December 2005. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding) in continuation.

General business concluded.

26 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES—ORDERS OF THE DAY—CONSIDERATION

The following orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses were considered:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Australia's response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Motion of Senator Payne to take note of report debated and agreed to.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Australia's relationship with the Republic of Korea; and developments on the Korean peninsula. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Ferguson) to take note of report agreed to.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Report—National Animal Welfare Bill 2005. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of report debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Report—The administration by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of the citrus canker outbreak. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Heffernan) to take note of report agreed to.

Community Affairs References Committee—Report—Beyond petrol sniffing: Renewing hope for Indigenous communities. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Moore) to take note of report debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Hogg in continuation.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with North Africa. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Ferguson) to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Hogg debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Visit to Australian Defence Forces deployed to support the rehabilitation of Iraq – Report of the delegation, 22 to 28 October 2005. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Ferguson) to take note of report agreed to.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Australia's defence relations with the United States. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Ferguson) to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Report—Workplace exposure to toxic dust. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Moore) to take note of report debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Moore in continuation.

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Funding and disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates. Motion of Senator Carr to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee—Report—Review of the listing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Motion of Senator Ferguson to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee—Report 2/2006—Review of arrangements for registration of senators' interests. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Webber)—That the recommendation on page 4 of Report 2/2006 of the Committee of Senators' Interests be adopted—agreed to.

Senators' Interests—Variation of resolutions: Accordingly, Senators' Interests Resolutions 1(1) and 1(2)(b) were amended to read as follows:

1 Registration of Senators' Interests

(1) Within:

- (a) 28 days after the first meeting of the Senate after 1 July first occurring after a general election; and
- (b) 28 days after the first meeting of the Senate after a simultaneous dissolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and
- (c) 28 days after making and subscribing an oath or affirmation of allegiance as a senator for a Territory or appointed or chosen to fill a vacancy in the Senate;

each senator shall provide to the Registrar of Senators' Interests a statement of:

- (a) the senator's registrable interests; and
- (b) the registrable interests of which the senator is aware:
 - (i) of the senator's spouse or partner, and
 - (ii) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the senator for support;

in accordance with this resolution and in a form determined by the Committee of Senators' Interests from time to time, and shall also notify any alteration of those interests to the Registrar within **35** days of that alteration occurring.

- (2) Any senator who:
- (a) knowingly fails to provide a statement of registrable interests to the Registrar of Senators' Interests by the due date;
 - (b) knowingly fails to notify any alteration of those interests to the Registrar of Senators' Interests within **35** days of the change occurring; or
 - (c) knowingly provides false or misleading information to the Registrar of Senators' Interests;
- shall be guilty of a serious contempt of the Senate and shall be dealt with by the Senate accordingly, but the question whether any senator has committed such a serious contempt shall first be referred to the Privileges Committee for inquiry and report and may not be considered by any other committee.

ASIO, ASIS and DSD—Joint Statutory Committee—Report—ASIO's questioning and detention powers: Review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of Division 3 of Part III in the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979*—Government response. Motion of Senator Ray to take note of document agreed to.

Community Affairs References Committee—Report—Response to the petition on gynaecological health issues. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Moore) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Moore in continuation.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Report—China's emergence: Implications for Australia. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Hutchins) to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Mental Health—Select Committee—First report—A national approach to mental health - from crisis to community. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Allison) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Moore in continuation.

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—Report—Living with salinity – a report on progress: The extent and economic impact of salinity in Australia. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Bartlett) to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—72nd report—Treaties tabled on 29 November 2005 (2). Motion of Senator Wortley to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Report—Poverty and financial hardship—A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty—Government response. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document debated. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Legal and Constitutional References Committee—Report—Administration and operation of the *Migration Act 1958*. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Crossin) to take note of report called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Reports—Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children—Protecting vulnerable children: A national challenge: Inquiry into Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care—Government responses. Motion of Senator Murray to take note of document called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

27 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—ORDERS OF THE DAY—CONSIDERATION

The following orders of the day relating to reports of the Auditor-General were considered:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 31 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Roads to Recovery: Department of Transport and Regional Services. Motion of Senator O'Brien to take note of document agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 32 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Management of the tender process for the detention services contract: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. Motion of Senator Ludwig to take note of document agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 36 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Management of the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Project – Air 87: Department of Defence; Defence Materiel Organisation. Motion of Senator Bishop to take note of document called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 37 of 2005-06—Performance audit—The management of infrastructure, plant and equipment assets. Motion of Senator Bishop to take note of document agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 38 of 2005-06—Performance audit—The Australian Research Council's management of research grants. Motion of Senator Bishop to take note of document debated and agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 40 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Procurement of explosive ordnance for the Australian Defence Force (Army): Department of Defence; Defence Material Organisation. Motion of Senator Bishop to take note of document called on. On the motion of Senator Moore debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 47 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Funding for communities and community organisations: Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Siewert. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Siewert in continuation.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 49 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Job placement and matching services: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Moore. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Moore in continuation.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 52 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Management of selected Telstra Social Bonus 2 and Telecommunications Service Inquiry Response programs: Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Moore. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Moore in continuation.

Orders of the day nos 3, 4, 5 and 9 relating to reports of the Auditor-General were called on but no motion was moved.

28 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 8.36 pm till Monday, 14 August 2006 at 12.30 pm.

29 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senator Nash.

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate