THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 107

TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2006

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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 Film, Television and Radio School—Report for 2005-06.
- Australian War Memorial—Report for 2005-06.
- *Customs Act 1901*—Conduct of customs officers [Managed deliveries]—Report for 2005-06.
- Final budget outcome 2005-06—Report by the Treasurer (Mr Costello) and the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin), September 2006.
- Health Services Australia Ltd (HSA Group)—Statement of corporate intent 2006-09.
- National Health and Medical Research Council—Review of the implementation of the National Health and Medical Research Council’s strategic plan 2003-06, June 2006.
- Payments System Board—Report for 2005-06.
- Reserve Bank of Australia—Equity and diversity—Report for 2005-06.
- Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for 2003-04.
3 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) moved—that government business notice of motion no. 1 standing in his name for today, relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business for today, and government business order of the day no. 1 (Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2006 and a related bill) be postponed till a later hour.

Debate ensued.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 36

Senators—

Abetz  Coonan  Johnston  Parry
Adams  Eggleston  Joyce  Patterson
Barnett  Ellison  Kemp  Payne
Bernardi  Ferguson  Lightfoot  Ronaldson
Boswell  Ferris (Teller)  Macdonald, Ian  Scullion
Brandis  Fielding  Macdonald, Sandy  Troeth
Calvert  Fierravanti-Wells  Mason  Trood
Campbell, Ian  Fifield  Minchin  Vanstone
Colbeck  Heffernan  Nash  Watson

NOES, 32

Senators—

Allison  Evans  Lundy  Ray
Bartlett  Faulkner  McEwen  Sherry
Bishop  Forshaw  Milne  Siewert
Brown, Bob  Hogg  Moore  Stephens
Brown, Carol  Hurley  Murray  Sterle
Campbell, G (Teller)  Hutchins  Nettle  Webber
Carr  Kirk  O’Brien  Wong
Crossin  Ludwig  Polley  Wortley

Question agreed to.

4 AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Ageing (Senator Santoro)—That this bill be now read a second time—and on the amendment moved by Senator Stephens:

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

(a) its extreme and arrogant imposition of a nuclear waste dump on the Northern Territory;

(b) breaking a specific promise made before the last election not to locate a waste dump in the Northern Territory;

(c) its heavy-handed disregard for the legal and other rights of Northern Territorians and other communities, by overriding any existing or future state or territory law or regulation that prohibits or interferes with the selection of Commonwealth land as a site, the establishment of a waste dump and the transportation of waste across Australia;
(d) destroying any recourse to procedural fairness provisions for anyone wishing to challenge the Minister’s decision to impose a waste dump on the Northern Territory;
(e) establishing a hand-picked committee of inquiry into the economics of nuclear power in Australia, while disregarding the economic case for all alternative sources of energy; and
(f) keeping secret all plans for the siting of nuclear power stations and related nuclear waste dumps”.

Debate resumed.
At 2 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Forshaw was speaking.

5 QUESTIONS
Questions without notice were answered.

Distinguished visitors: The President welcomed members of a parliamentary delegation from the Netherlands led by the President of the Senate, Mrs Yvonne Timmerman-Buck, and, with the concurrence of honourable senators, invited Mrs Timmerman-Buck to take a seat on the floor of the chamber.

Further questions without notice were answered.

6 COMMUNICATIONS—TELSTRA—ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
Senator Sherry moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin) to questions without notice asked by Senators McEwen, Polley and Sherry today relating to the sale of Telstra.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

7 ENVIRONMENT—WESTERN AUSTRALIA—BURRUP PENINSULA—ROCK ART SITE—ANSWER TO QUESTION
Senator Siewert moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Senator Ian Campbell) to a question without notice asked by Senator Siewert today relating to the rock art site on the Burrup Peninsula, Western Australia.
Question put and passed.

8 PETITIONS
The following 2 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the senators indicated, were received:

The President, from 16 petitioners, requesting that the Senate legislate to require that all Internet service providers offer a ‘clean feed’ Internet service to all households, schools and public libraries that blocks access to websites containing child pornography, acts of extreme violence and X-rated material.

Senator Nettle, from 717 petitioners, requesting that the Senate take action to immediately halt the sale of arms to Israel.
NOTICES

Senator Mason: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 19 October 2006, from 9.30 am to 10.30 am, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into civics and electoral education. *(general business notice of motion no. 569)*

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) congratulates the King Island Council on its success in banning plantation forestry from its farmland; and

(b) commends the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Abetz) for understanding ‘the view of the King Island Council and local farmers in wanting to protect their icon [sic] beef and cheese industries’. *(general business notice of motion no. 570)*

The Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee (Senator Heffernan): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee be authorised to hold public meetings during the sittings of the Senate to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into water policy initiatives, on the following days:

(a) Thursday, 12 October 2006, from 4.30 pm to 6 pm; and

(b) Wednesday, 18 October 2006, from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. *(general business notice of motion no. 571)*

Senator Bartlett: To move on 16 October 2006—That the Senate—

(a) congratulates:

(i) the Cairns-based WuChopperen Health Services for winning the 2006 Indigenous Governance Award for an organisation established longer than 10 years, and

(ii) the Wagga Wagga-based Gannambarra Enterprises for winning the 2006 Indigenous Governance Award for an organisation established fewer than 10 years; and

(b) acknowledges the work of Reconciliation Australia and BHP Billiton in hosting the Indigenous Governance Awards and recognises the achievements of all the eight finalists in the awards and pays tribute to the positive contribution they are making for Indigenous Australians and the wider community. *(general business notice of motion no. 572)*

Senator Murray: To move on 16 October 2006—That clauses 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 of Determination 2006/18: Members of Parliament – Entitlements, made pursuant to subsections 7(1), 7(2) and 7(4) of the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973, that provide for the aggregation of the charter and communications allowances of a member representing an electorate of 10,000 km² or more, be disapproved.

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

(a) acknowledges and supports the Government’s position to adopt an immediate ban on high seas bottom trawling in all unregulated areas;

(b) acknowledges the Australian position for a ban from 1 August 2007 where governance arrangements (RFMOs) are under negotiation, unless and until conservation and management measures are implemented; and a ban from 1 January 2008 within existing RFMOs, unless and until conservation and management measures are implemented;
(c) supports the commitment to applying the precautionary principle with independent peer review so that bans on high seas bottom trawling cannot be lifted unless it can be shown scientifically that it will not damage fragile marine ecosystems;

(d) acknowledges the commitment to strengthen conservation and management of deep sea biodiversity in general;

(e) welcomes the efforts of the Australian delegation to advance the position on high seas bottom trawling within the United Nations (UN) General Assembly negotiations; and

(f) urges the Government to pursue all diplomatic avenues to ensure that this position prevails when a formal decision is taken in the UN General Assembly in early December 2006. 

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

(a) notes that the week beginning 9 October 2006 is National Mental Health Week in Australia, incorporating World Mental Health Day which is celebrated on 10 October;

(b) acknowledges that suicide can be a tragic consequence of a failure to recognise and treat mental illness;

(c) notes that many lives are being saved by early recognition and treatment of people at risk;

(d) recognises the impact of mental illness on carers and families and acknowledges their essential role in supporting those with mental illness;

(e) notes that the Council of Australian Governments has designated mental health as a major health priority; and

(f) supports the call by the national Mental Health Council of Australia for recognition that, left untreated, mental illnesses can be fatal and thus must be addressed as an issue of utmost importance. 

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes the report by Amnesty International, *Papua New Guinea: Violence against women: Not inevitable, never acceptable*, which reports that:

(i) violence against women is endemic in Papua New Guinea, affecting the majority of women and girls in some parts of the country,

(ii) healthcare, counselling services, emergency accommodation and other forms of support for survivors of gender-based violence are insufficiently available outside the capital Port Moresby, as is access to legal advice and formal justice processes, and

(iii) current harmful practices are common throughout society and contribute to high levels of violence against women;

(b) acknowledges that gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea curtails women’s freedom of movement and in turn limits women’s access to education and employment and their ability to participate freely in public life, as well as contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea; and

(c) calls on the Government to:

(i) urge the Government of Papua New Guinea to resource the Papua New Guinea Ombudsman Commission to enable it to fulfil its role of promoting human rights in Papua New Guinea, and
(ii) encourage the Government of Papua New Guinea to strengthen its support and increase resources for programs that will improve the implementation of Papua New Guinea laws that recognise violence against women as criminal offences. (general business notice of motion no. 575)

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison): To move on the next day of sitting—That, after the motion for the second reading of the Communications Legislation Amendment (Enforcement Powers) Bill 2006 and the Television Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2006 has been moved, they may be taken together for their remaining stages with the government business order of the day relating to the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2006 and the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2006.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Watson): To move 15 sitting days after today—That the Amendment of List of Specimens taken to be suitable for live import [EPBC/s.303EC/SSLI/Amend/012], made under paragraph 303EC(1)(c) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, be disallowed.

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

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

(a) notes that:

(i) the Reva electric car has been approved for use in the European Union, Japan and Malta and is being test marketed in the United States of America, Sri Lanka, Norway, Ireland, Switzerland, Romania and Cyprus,

(ii) electric vehicles can reduce both Australia’s dependence on foreign oil and its greenhouse gas emissions, particularly when recharged with renewable electricity, and

(iii) based on accident and insurance data, the chance of a fatality occurring in a Reva is around 50 per cent less than in an ordinary car; and

(b) calls on the Government to:

(i) remove any impediment that would prevent the import of 20 Revas into Australia for a trial,

(ii) adopt the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Heavy Quadricycle category 92/61/EC as a vehicle class, and

(iii) extend the import permit to delay the destruction or export of the one Reva vehicle currently in Australia. (general business notice of motion no. 576)

10 Postponement

The following item of business was postponed:

General business notice of motion no. 568 standing in the name of Senator Nettle for today, relating to the death of West Papuan politician Mr Willem Zonggonau, postponed till 12 October 2006.
11 **HOURS OF MEETING AND ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—VARIATION**

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—that, on Tuesday, 10 October 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 the government business order relating to the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2006 and the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2006—second reading speeches only; and

(c) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 10.30 pm.

Question put and passed. All Australian Greens senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the noes.

12 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS—NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

Senator Milne, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 567—that the Senate—

(a) condemns North Korea’s nuclear weapons test;

(b) notes:
   (i) the increasing threat of nuclear conflict globally,
   (ii) that International Atomic Energy Agency statistics reveal that there have been 300 seizures of smuggled radioactive material capable of making a ‘dirty’ bomb since 2002 and that the rate of seizures has doubled since this time,
   (iii) the call from Al Qaeda’s chief in Iraq for nuclear scientists and explosives experts to join his Jihad against the West, and his comment that American bases in Iraq are good places to test unconventional weapons, and
   (iv) that the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) has undermined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by expressing a willingness to consider the sale of uranium to India, which is not a signatory to the Treaty and which, together with Pakistan, staged the last nuclear break-out in 1998; and

(c) calls on the Government to:
   (i) dismantle the Prime Minister’s Taskforce conducting the Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review,
   (ii) reject any proposition by the United States of America about Australia becoming a nuclear fuel supply centre under President George W Bush’s Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, and
   (iii) abandon its support for the sale of uranium to India.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

**AYES, 7**

Senators—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allison</th>
<th>Brown, Bob</th>
<th>Murray</th>
<th>Siewert (Teller)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bartlett</td>
<td>Milne</td>
<td>Nettle</td>
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NOES, 48

Senators—

Adams  Fielding  Macdonald, Sandy  Ray
Bernardi  Fierravanti-Wells  Mason  Ronaldson
Bishop  Fifield  McEwen  Scullion
Brandis  Forshaw  McGauran  Sherry
Brown, Carol  Heffernan  McLucas  Stephens
Campbell, G (Teller)  Hogg  Moore  Sterle
Carr  Hurley  Nash  Troeth
Colbeck  Hutchins  O’Brien  Troed
Crossin  Johnston  Parry  Watson
Eggleston  Kirk  Patterson  Webber
Ellison  Ludwig  Payne  Wong
Ferris  Lundy  Polley  Wortley

Question negatived.

13 SOCIAL ISSUES—WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
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. 564—That the Senate—

(a) recognises that 10 October 2006 is the fourth annual World Day Against the Death Penalty;

(b) notes that World Day Against the Death Penalty was established in 2003 by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty;

(c) reiterates its opposition to the death penalty; and

(d) calls on the Government to continue its efforts to encourage nation states to abolish the death penalty and to halt all executions of those sentenced to death.

Question put and passed.

14 FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTINGS
Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Finance and Public Administration Committee (Senator Mason) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 560—That the Finance and Public Administration Committee be authorised to hold public meetings during the sittings of the Senate on the following days:

(a) on Wednesday, 11 October 2006, from 4 pm to 6 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts; and

(b) on Thursday, 12 October 2006, from 3.30 pm to 7 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the transparency and accountability of Commonwealth public funding and expenditure.

Question put and passed.
15 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—STANDING COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT
Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (Senator Johnston) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 561—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on the provisions of the Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2006 be extended to 12 October 2006.
Question put and passed.

16 REGIONAL AUSTRALIA—AGRICULTURAL MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES
The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) amended general business notice of motion no. 558 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—That the Government conduct further consultation with industry on the application of current taxation arrangements for agricultural managed investment schemes.
Question put and passed.

17 TAXATION—INFRASTRUCTURE BORROWINGS TAX OFFSET SCHEME—PROPOSED ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS
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. 563—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, no later than 4.30 pm on Monday, 16 October 2006, a copy of the file L98/278 folios 99, 101 and 102 held by the Department of Transport and Regional Services which contain the submissions made to the department by the Transurban Group, owners and operators of Melbourne City Link and other roads, in support of its claim for taxation deductions under the Infrastructure Borrowings Tax Offset Scheme.
Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 34

Senators—
Allison
Bartlett
Bishop
Brown, Bob
Brown, Carol
Campbell, G (Teller)
Carr
Conroy
Crossin
Evans
Fielding
Forshaw
Hogg
Hurley
Hutchins
Kirk
Ludwig
Lundy
McEwen
McLacus
Milne
Moore
Murray
Nettle
O’Brien
Polley
Ray
Sherry
Siewert
Stephens
Sterle
Webber
Wong
Wortley

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The ayes and noes were equal and so the question was negatived.

18 **EMPLOYMENT—COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM—PROPOSED ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT**

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 566—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Attorney-General, no later than 3.30 pm on 12 October 2006, the review of the Community Partners Program, as commissioned by the Office of the Employment Advocate and conducted by Deloitte Touche Tomatsu.

Question put and negatived.

19 **GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK (PROTECTING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF FROM OIL DRILLING AND EXPLORATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2003—RESTORATION TO NOTICE PAPER**

Senator Bartlett, also on behalf of Senator McLucas, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 565—

1. That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.

2. That the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Protecting the Great Barrier Reef from Oil Drilling and Exploration) Amendment Bill 2003 be restored to the Notice Paper and that consideration of the bill be resumed at the stage reached in the 40th Parliament.

Question put and passed.

20 **MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMMUNICATIONS—TELSTRA**

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) informed the Senate that, at 8.30 am today, two senators each submitted letters in accordance with standing order 75, Senator Milne proposing a matter of urgency for debate and Senator Conroy proposing a matter of public importance for discussion. The question of which proposal would be submitted to the Senate was determined by lot.

As a result, 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 continued mismanagement of the sale of Telstra is hurting the prospects of the company as evidenced by the following claims in the recently released T3 prospectus:

(a) the Government’s intention to force the appointment of Mr Geoff Cousins as a Telstra director despite the opposition of Telstra directors could affect the stability of the board;
(b) the Government’s decision to dump a large holding of Telstra shares into the Future Fund to be sold in the future, will depress the Telstra share price; and

c) Government imposed regulation threatens the company’s earning prospects.

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

21 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—
TRANSPARENT ADVERTISING AND NOTIFICATION OF PREGNANCY COUNSELLING
SERVICES BILL 2005

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


22 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

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

Acts Interpretation Act—Statement pursuant to subsection 34C(7) relating to the delay in presentation of a report—National Health and Medical Research Council—Review of the implementation of the National Health and Medical Research Council’s strategic plan 2003-06.

Auditor-General Act—Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Auditing Standards [F2006L03268]*.

Christmas Island Act—Applied Laws (Implementation) Amendment Ordinance 2006 (No. 1) [F2006L03261]*.

Class Ruling CR 2006/98.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Applied Laws (Implementation) Amendment Ordinance 2006 (No. 1) [F2006L03262]*.

Customs Act—Tariff Concession Orders—

0611314 [F2006L03313]*.
0611455 [F2006L03314]*.
0611456 [F2006L03315]*.
0611481 [F2006L03316]*.
0611597 [F2006L03317]*.
0611639 [F2006L03318]*.
0611944 [F2006L03319]*.


Higher Education Support Act—
  Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines, dated 28 August 2006
  [F2006L03308]*.
  Higher Education Provider Approval (No. 14 of 2006)—Bradford College Pty
  Ltd [F2006L03336]*.

Migration Act—
  Migration Agents Regulations—Instruments—
    IMMI 06/056—Prescribed courses for applicants for registration as a
    migration agent [F2006L03194]*.
    IMMI 06/057—Prescribed exams for applicants for registration as a
    migration agent [F2006L03201]*.
  Migration Regulations—Instrument IMMI 06/069—Working Holiday Visa –
  Definitions of ‘seasonal work’ and ‘regional Australia’ [F2006L03212]*.

Miscellaneous Taxation Rulings—
  Addenda—
    MT 2019.
    MT 2033.
  Notice of Withdrawal—MT 2029.

National Health Act—Determination HIB 30/2006 [F2006L03312]*.

Proceeds of Crime Act—Select Legislative Instrument 2006 No. 257—Proceeds of
Crime Amendment Regulations 2006 (No. 4) [F2006L03303]*.

Product Rulings PR 2006/142-PR 2006/144.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—
  Approved Form for Application for Initial Approval as a Rehabilitation
  Program Provider [F2006L03292]*.
  Approved Form for Application for Renewal of Approval as a Rehabilitation
  Program Provider [F2006L03294]*.
  Variation of Criteria for Approval or Renewal of Approval of Rehabilitation
  Program Providers [F2006L03288]*.
  Variation of Operational Standards for Rehabilitation Program Providers
  [F2006L03289]*.

Superannuation Act 2005—
  Superannuation (PSSAP) Approved Authority Exclusion Amendment
  Declaration 2006 [F2006L03287]*.
  Superannuation (PSSAP) Membership Eligibility (Inclusion) Amendment
  Declaration 2006 [F2006L03272]*.

Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act—Select Legislative Instrument
2006 No. 260—Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Amendment
Regulations 2006 (No. 3) [F2006L03264]*.

Taxation Determinations—
  Addenda—
    TD 93/230.
    TD 94/97.
  Notice of Withdrawal—TD 94/47.
    TD 2006/62.

Taxation Rulings—
  Addendum—IT 2675.
Notice of Withdrawal—TR 94/1.
TR 2006/10 and TR 2006/11.
Telecommunications Act—Telecommunications Numbering Plan (Minor Variation) Declaration 2006 [F2006L03310]*.

* Explanatory statement tabled with legislative instrument.

23 **ADMINISTRATOR’S MESSAGE—ASSENT TO LAWS**
A message from Her Excellency the Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia was reported, informing the Senate that she had assented to the following laws:

27 September 2006—Message No. 35—

24 **HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (2006 BUDGET AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2006**
A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:

Message no. 396, dated 9 October 2006—A Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to higher education and to research funding, and for related purposes.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence (Senator Sandy Macdonald) 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 Sandy Macdonald moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

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

25 **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM OF THE CHILD SUPPORT SCHEME—NEW FORMULA AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2006**
Pursuant to order, Senator Scullion, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs Committee (Senator Humphries), tabled the following report and documents:


Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Scullion.
26 **Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2006**  
**Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) 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 these bills be now read a second time.  
Debate resumed.  
On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Colbeck) the debate was adjourned till a later hour.  

27 **Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Leave to Meet During Sitting**  
Senator Parry, by leave and on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, moved—That the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties be authorised to hold a private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sitting of the Senate today, from 8 pm.  
Question put and passed.  

28 **Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2006**  
**Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) 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 these bills be now read a second time.  
Debate resumed.  
At 10:30 pm: Debate was interrupted while the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) was speaking.  

29 **Adjournment**  
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Troeth) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  

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**Document:** Senator Barnett, by leave, tabled the following document:  

Debate continued.  
The Senate adjourned at midnight till Wednesday, 11 October 2006 at 9.30 am.
30 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senators Marshall* and Stott Despoja* (* on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate