

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 7

MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2008

Contents

1	Meeting of Senate.....	232
2	Consideration of Legislation	232
3	Death of Former Member the Honourable Clyde Robert Cameron, AO	232
4	Order of Business—Rearrangement.....	232
5	Communications Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2008	232
6	Order of Business—Rearrangement.....	233
7	Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008.....	233
8	Governor-General’s Opening Speech—Address-in-Reply	233
9	Questions.....	233
10	Motions to Take Note of Answers	233
11	Notices	234
12	Death of Former Member the Honourable Clyde Robert Cameron, AO	237
13	Postponements	237
14	Health—Research	237
15	Foreign Affairs—Asia Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition.....	238
16	Environment—Melbourne—Crown Casino	238
17	Urgency Motion—Foreign Affairs—Tibet.....	239
18	Best Practice Regulation Requirements—Ministerial Statement—Document..	239
19	Senators’ Interests—Standing Committee—Annual Report and Document.....	239
20	Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee— Report—Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008	239
21	Documents.....	240
22	Committee Membership	241
23	Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008	242
24	Committee Membership	242
25	Adjournment.....	243
26	Attendance.....	243

1 MEETING OF SENATE

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

2 CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong), by leave, moved—That—

- (1) The provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the Communications Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2008 and the Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings.
- (2) That, upon its introduction in the Senate, the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 have precedence over all other business till determined.

Documents: Senator Wong tabled the following documents:

Consideration of legislation—Statements of reasons [2] for introduction and passage of the bills in the 2008 autumn sittings.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

3 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER THE HONOURABLE CLYDE ROBERT CAMERON, AO

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Marshall) informed the Senate of the death, on 14 March 2008, of the Honourable Clyde Robert Cameron, AO, a former minister and member of the House of Representatives for the division of Hindmarsh from 1949 to 1980.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans), by leave, moved—That the Senate records its deep regret at the death, on 14 March 2008, of the Honourable Clyde Robert Cameron, AO, former federal minister and member for Hindmarsh, and places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Leave was granted for the consideration of the motion to be resumed at a later hour.

4 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Senator Conroy) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of the government business order of the day relating to Communications Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2008.

Question put and passed.

5 COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES) BILL 2008

Order read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

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, agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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

On the motion of the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Senator Conroy) the report from the committee was adopted and the bill read a third time.

6 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (Senator Stephens) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of the government business order of the day relating to Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008.

Question put and passed.

7 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (TRUSTEE BOARD AND OTHER MEASURES) (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry) in continuation.

8 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OPENING SPEECH—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Wortley—That the address-in-reply be agreed to (*see entry no. 4, 13 February 2008*).

Debate resumed.

At 2 pm: Debate was interrupted.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

10 MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS

Senator Ronaldson moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) and the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Senator Conroy) to questions without notice asked by Senators Ronaldson and McGauran today relating to the Transport Workers Union.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) to a question without notice asked by Senator Allison today relating to emissions trading.

Question put and passed.

11 NOTICES

The Chair of the Community Affairs Committee (Senator Moore): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Community Affairs Committee on the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 be extended to 12 August 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 46*)

Senator Bartlett: To move on the next day of sitting—

- (1) That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.
- (2) That the Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government) Bill 2003 [2004] be restored to the *Notice Paper* and that consideration of the bill resumed at the stage reached in the 41st Parliament. (*general business notice of motion no. 47*)

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) welcomes the discovery of the missing wreck HMAS *Sydney II*, 66 years since the tragic battle that lost the ship in 1941 off the coast of Western Australia;
- (b) notes the importance of finding the missing wreck for families and friends of the 645 crew members on board HMAS *Sydney* when she was lost in fierce engagement with the German raider *Kormoran*;
- (c) congratulates the search team for the discovery of HMAS *Sydney's* resting place;
- (d) notes the Coalition's strong support for efforts to find the wreck, including \$4.2 million in funding under the Howard Government;
- (e) calls on the Government to move quickly to proclaim HMAS *Sydney* an official war grave to ensure that she and her crew are protected; and
- (f) further calls on the Government to recognise the needs of the families and friends of the victims by ensuring a memorial service is held as soon as possible. (*general business notice of motion no. 48*)

The Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion): To move on the next day of sitting—

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Remote Indigenous Communities, be appointed to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) the effectiveness of Australian Government policies following the Northern Territory Emergency Response, specifically on the state of health, welfare, education and law and order in remote Indigenous communities;
 - (b) the impact of state and territory government policies on the wellbeing of remote Indigenous communities;
 - (c) the health, welfare, education and security of children in remote Indigenous communities; and
 - (d) the employment and enterprise opportunities in remote Indigenous communities.

- (2) That the committee report to the Senate on 30 September 2008, 30 March 2009, 30 September 2009, 30 March 2010 and 30 September 2010.
- (3) That the committee consist of 6 members, 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 3 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 nominated by any minority group or groups or independent senator or independent senators.
- (4)
 - (a) On the nominations of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and minority groups and independent senators, participating members may be appointed to the committee;
 - (b) participating members may participate in hearings of evidence and deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of members of committee, but may not vote on any questions before the committee; and
 - (c) a participating member shall be taken to be a member of the committee for the purpose of forming a quorum of the committee if a majority of members of the committee is not present.
- (5) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (6) That the committee elect an Opposition member as chair.
- (7) That the committee elect a Government member as deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (8) That, in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (9) That the quorum of the committee be 4 members.
- (10) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 2 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (11) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and interim recommendations.
- (12) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President.
- (13) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such documents and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public. (*general business notice of motion no. 49*)

The Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (Senator Crossin): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 be extended to 23 June 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 50*)

Senator Boyce: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate congratulates the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Campbell Newman and the Liberal Council team on their victory in the local government elections in Queensland on Saturday, 15 March 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 51*)

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

- (a) notes with deep regret the passing of Professor Peter Cullen on 13 March 2008;
- (b) acknowledges the significant contribution Professor Cullen made:
 - (i) to the environment, natural resource policy, freshwater ecology, and the management of Australia's water resources, particularly within the Murray Darling Basin, and
 - (ii) to the knowledge and understanding of these complex and vital issues, including his significant role in the development of sustainable water policy in Australia, and that his insightful analysis will be sorely missed;
- (c) acknowledges that Professor Cullen was particularly skilled at bridging the gap between science and the policy and practice of water management, and had a flair for using language that made complex issues accessible and got the point across; for example, some 'Cullen-isms' include:
 - (i) on the importance of water accounting, 'Flying blind hasn't worked and we must know how much water we have, where it is and how it is being used. We need to know the health of our waterways',
 - (ii) on managing water scarcity, 'Believing we could meet the water needs of these communities by fixing a few leaking taps and having shorter showers was always a fantasy',
 - (iii) on the Murray Darling, 'We don't have all the answers—nobody does—but before we start laying bricks and mortar, we have got to get the foundations right, otherwise the cathedral will tumble with the smallest of tremors', and
 - (iv) on climate change, 'We're doing a wonderful experiment in global warming at the moment but by the time it gets through peer review there might not be many humans left on the planet'; and
- (d) offers its condolences to his family and friends. (*general business notice of motion no. 52*)

Senator McEwen: 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. 53*)

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

- (a) notes:
 - (i) a bushfire in the magnificent Tarkine wilderness area in north west Tasmania had burnt 1 800 hectares by 17 March 2008,
 - (ii) that the fire was started in conjunction with a car accident on the 'Road to Nowhere' known as the Western Explorer Road, and
 - (iii) the high risk of fire from opening the inaccessible area to vehicle access was identified by conservationists as a major threat and reason for objection when the road was proposed and approved by the Tasmanian Liberal Government in 1994; and
- (b) calls on the Government to:

- (i) urge the Tasmanian Government to close the road and convert it to a world-class cycling and walking track, and
- (ii) advance the world heritage nomination of the area to secure its permanent protection. (*general business notice of motion no. 54*)

12 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER THE HONOURABLE CLYDE ROBERT CAMERON, AO

In accordance with the leave granted earlier today (*see entry no. 3*) the motion of the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) relating to the death of the Honourable Clyde Robert Cameron, AO, was called on.

The motion was supported and all senators present stood in silence—

Question passed.

13 POSTPONEMENTS

The following items of business were postponed:

General business notice of motion no. 26 standing in the name of Senator Bartlett for today, proposing the introduction of the National Commissioner for Children Bill 2008, postponed till 18 March 2008.

General business notice of motion no. 41 standing in the name of the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) for 18 March 2008, proposing the introduction of the Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008, postponed till 20 March 2008.

14 HEALTH—RESEARCH

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. 43—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the study published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (Vol. 31, Issue 6, pp 551-7, December 2007) by Yazahmeidi and Holman, School of Population Health, University of Western Australia, ‘A survey of suppression of public health information by Australian governments’ which found that:
 - (i) just under one-third of academics had witnessed the suppression of health information by Australian governments in the past 5.5 years,
 - (ii) more than one-fifth had experienced such events personally,
 - (iii) no state or territory in which the survey took place was immune,
 - (iv) governments most commonly hindered research by sanitising, delaying or prohibiting the publication of findings but ‘there was no part of the research process beyond their reach’,
 - (v) most of the affected researchers believed that their work had been targeted because it drew attention to failings in health service delivery, uncovered bad news about the health of a vulnerable group, or pointed to a harmful exposure in the environment, and
 - (vi) in most instances the government agency seeking to suppress the health information succeeded and, consequently the public was left uninformed or given a false impression; and
- (b) calls on the Government to take up the recommendations of the study with state and territory governments, including:

- (i) adopting policies that match or exceed the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's 'Guidelines for managing conflict of interest in the public service',
- (ii) adopting a charter by government health agencies and research and academic institutions that supports the independent role of health researchers in evaluating the health system,
- (iii) establishing parliamentary ombudsmen or ombudswomen in mediating the resolution of complaints by researchers concerning suppression,
- (iv) promoting a culture that avoids blame and values constructive criticism,
- (v) promoting the role of institutional ethics committees in scrutinising the ethical behaviour of government agencies and researchers who work together, and
- (vi) establishing a surveillance system to monitor the occurrence of suppression events and report on their trends.

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

15 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—ASIA PACIFIC DEFENCE AND SECURITY EXHIBITION

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. 44—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the South Australian Government has agreed to host the Asia Pacific Defence and Security exhibition and conference in Adelaide from 11 to 13 November 2008, and
 - (ii) the stated object of the exhibition and conference is to provide an international forum for arms manufacturers wishing to expand their business in the Asia Pacific region; and
- (b) calls on the South Australian Government to renege on its agreement to host the exhibition and conference.

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

16 ENVIRONMENT—MELBOURNE—CROWN CASINO

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. 45—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) Crown Casino in Melbourne continues to burn large quantities of gas, and therefore contribute significantly to global warming, for the purpose of holding fireball shows at the front of the complex, and
 - (ii) the fireball shows take place approximately 3 000 times a year, and each show consists of hundreds of fireballs with diameters of between 3 and 7 metres; and
- (b) calls on the Victorian Government to introduce legislation that would prevent Crown Casino from continuing to hold the fireball shows.

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

17 URGENCY MOTION—FOREIGN AFFAIRS—TIBET

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) informed the Senate that the President had received a letter from the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) advising that today he intended to move—That, in the opinion of the Senate, the following is a matter of urgency:

The bloodshed in Tibet and the need for strong, decisive action by the Government to insist that international laws and norms, including those safeguarding human and political rights and media access are observed by China.

The proposal was supported by four senators.

Senator Bob Brown moved the motion.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

18 BEST PRACTICE REGULATION REQUIREMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—DOCUMENT

The Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner) tabled the following document:

Best practice regulation requirements—Ministerial statement by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation (Mr Tanner), dated 17 March 2008.

19 SENATORS' INTERESTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—ANNUAL REPORT AND DOCUMENT

Senator Nash, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee of Senators' Interests (Senator Johnston), tabled the following report and document:

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee—

Report 1 of 2008: Annual report 2007, dated March 2008.

Registration of Senators' interests: A handbook for Senators, also incorporating related information on registering gifts to the Senate and the Parliament, 2008 edition.

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

20 EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (TRANSITION TO FORWARD WITH FAIRNESS) BILL 2008

The Chair of the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee (Senator Marshall) tabled the following report and documents:

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee—Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 [Provisions]—Report, dated March 2008, additional information and submissions.

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

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

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

21 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

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

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—Part—

105—

AD/BEECH 200/33—Pilot and Co-Pilot Seat Back Pan [F2008L00751]*.

AD/CESSNA 210/39—Pre-Certification Requirements – Modifications [F2008L00739]*.

AD/CESSNA 525/7—Structural Corrosion [F2008L00736]*.

AD/CL-600/97—Enhancement to Takeoff Operational Safety Margins [F2008L00732]*.

AD/CL-600/98—Enhancement to Takeoff Operational Safety Margins [F2008L00752]*.

AD/ECUREUIL/67 Amdt 2—Rear Bench Cushions [F2008L00727]*.

AD/ERJ-170/14—Escape Slide Installation [F2008L00726]*.

AD/J4100/23—Nose Landing Gear Wheel Outer Cone [F2008L00724]*.

AD/JETSTREAM/105—Nose Landing Gear Wheel Outer Cone [F2008L00723]*.

AD/R44/18 Amdt 1—Main Rotor Blades [F2008L00720]*.

AD/TAYLORCRAFT/1 Amdt 1—Wing Struts [F2008L00719]*.

AD/TECNAM/6—Vertical Fin Spar [F2008L00717]*.

106—AD/THIELERT/7 Amdt 1—High Pressure Fuel Line Bracket [F2008L00715]*.

Commissioner of Taxation—Public rulings—

Class Rulings—CR 2008/23-CR 2008/25.

Product Rulings—PR 2008/23-PR 2008/25.

Corporations Act—Accounting Standard AASB 2008-2—Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [F2008L00716]*.

Currency Act—Currency (Royal Australian Mint) Determination 2008 (No. 2) [F2008L00710]*.

Customs Act—

Tariff Concession Orders—

0720928 [F2008L00684]*.

0717718 [F2008L00686]*.

0720892 [F2008L00685]*.

0720949 [F2008L00681]*.

0720950 [F2008L00678]*.

0720953 [F2008L00679]*.

Tariff Concession Revocation Instrument 28/2008 [F2008L00482]*.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—Defence Determinations—

2008/8—Army and Air Force – Targeted pilot retention bonus scheme – amendment.

2008/9—Army and Air Force – Targeted pilot retention bonus scheme – amendment.

2008/10—Post indexes – amendment.

2008/11—Deployment allowance – amendment.

2008/12—CDF-recognised dependants, and long service leave – amendment.

Federal Court of Australia Act—Select Legislative Instrument 2008 No. 18—
Federal Court (Bankruptcy) Amendment Rules 2008 (No. 1) [F2008L00709]*.

Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act—Explanatory statement and Financial
Sector (Collection of Data) (Reporting Standard) Determinations Nos—

28 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 231.3a International Exposures:
Consolidated (Domestic Entity) [F2008L00451].

29 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 231.3b International Exposures:
Consolidated (Foreign Entity) [F2008L00452].

34 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 320.4 Bill Acceptances and
Endorsements [F2008L00457].

35 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 320.5 Securities Subject to Repurchase
and Resale and Stock Lending and Borrowing [F2008L00458].

36 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 320.7 Deposits and Loans Classified by
State and Territory [F2008L00460].

38 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 321.0 Statement of Financial Position
(Offshore Operations) [F2008L00465].

40 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 323.0 Statement of Financial Position
(Licensed ADI) [F2008L00470].

42 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 326.0 Offshore Banking Units
[F2008L00474].

43 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 330.0 Statement of Financial
Performance [F2008L00477].

44 of 2008—Reporting standard ARS 330.1 Interest Income and Interest
Expense [F2008L00479].

Higher Education Support Act—Higher Education Provider Approval (No. 2
of 2008)—ICHM Pty Ltd [F2008L00743]*.

National Health Act—Instrument No. PB 30 of 2008—Amendment declaration
and determination – drugs and medicinal preparations [F2008L00691]*.

Public Service Act—Determination under section 24, dated 13 March 2008
[F2008L00797]*.

Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act—Telecommunications
(Interception and Access) (Emergency Service Facilities — Australian Capital
Territory) Instrument 2008 [F2008L00775]*.

* Explanatory statement tabled with legislative instrument.

22 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Sandy Macdonald) informed the Senate that the
President had received a letter requesting changes in the membership of committees.

The Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner), by leave, moved—That senators be
discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

Economics—Standing Committee—

Discharged—Senator Campbell

Appointed—Senator McEwen

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee—

Discharged—Senator Campbell

Appointed—Senator Crossin

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—

Discharged—Senator McLucas

Appointed—Senator Hurley.

Question put and passed.

23 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (TRANSITION TO FORWARD WITH FAIRNESS) BILL 2008

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

Message no. 32, dated 17 March 2008—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, and for related purposes.

The Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner) 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 Faulkner moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

The Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding) moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate notes the Government’s proposal for a strong safety net of 10 legislated National Employment Standards for all employees is inadequate because it does not provide for:

(a) meal breaks; and

(b) penalty rates,

for all workers and their families”.

Debate ensued.

On the motion of the Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

24 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Bishop) informed the Senate that the President had received letters nominating senators to be members of committees.

The Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong), by leave, moved—That senators be appointed to committees as follows:

Economics—Standing Committee—

Appointed—substitute member: Senator Allison to replace Senator Murray for the committee’s inquiries into the Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 and the National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]

Housing Affordability in Australia—Select Committee—

Appointed—participating members: Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Heffernan, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson

State Government Financial Management—Select Committee—

Appointed—participating members: Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Brandis, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fierravanti-Wells, Fisher, Fifield, Heffernan, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson.

Question put and passed.

25 ADJOURNMENT

The Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) moved—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 10.42 pm till Tuesday, 18 March 2008 at 12.30 pm.

26 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senator Stott Despoja (on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate