

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

## NOTICE PAPER

No. 2

THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2008

*The Senate meets at 9.30 am*

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*Notifications prefixed by an (\*) appear for the first time.*

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

### Notice of Motion

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

1 **Senator Abetz:** To move—That, upon its introduction into the House of Representatives, the provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 be referred to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee for inquiry and report by 28 April 2008, with particular reference to:

- (a) economic and social impacts from the abolition of individual statutory agreements;
- (b) impact on employment;
- (c) potential for a wages breakout and increased inflationary pressures;
- (d) potential for increased industrial disputation;
- (e) impact on sectors heavily reliant on individual statutory agreements; and
- (f) impact on productivity.

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## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### Notice of Motion

*Notice given 13 February 2008*

\*1 **Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig):** To move—That the provision of standing order 111(6) which prevents the continuation or resumption of the second reading debate on a bill within 14 days of its first introduction in either House not apply to the following bills:

Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008

Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) Bill (No. 1) 2007-2008

Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) Bill (No. 2) 2007-2008.

*Notice of motion altered on 13 February 2008 pursuant to standing order 77.*

### Orders of the Day

\*1 **Joint Committees—Proposed appointments**

Consideration of message nos 1 to 9 from the House of Representatives (13 February 2008).

\*2 **National Apology to the Stolen Generations**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig)—That the Senate take note of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations (13 February 2008).

**3 Governor-General's Opening Speech**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Wortley—That the following address—in-reply be agreed to:

*To His Excellency the Governor-General*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament (*adjourned, Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig), 13 February 2008*).

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY RELATING TO COMMITTEE REPORTS  
AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND  
AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS**

**Orders of the Day relating to Committee Reports and Government Responses**

- 1 **Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee—Report—Review of the re-listing of three terrorist organisations**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- 2 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Crimes Legislation Amendment (Child Sex Tourism Offences and Related Measures) Bill 2007 [Provisions]**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- 3 **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee—Interim report—The changing nature of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- 4 **Economics—Standing Committee—Interim report—Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008 and National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).

**Order of the Day relating to Auditor-General's reports**

- 1 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 7 of 2007-08—Performance audit—The Senate order for departmental and agency contracts (calendar year 2006 compliance)**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).
- 2 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 8 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Proof of identity for accessing Centrelink payments—Centrelink; Department of Human Services**  
Consideration (*12 February 2008*).

- 3 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 9 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Australian apprenticeships—Department of Education, Science and Training**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 4 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 10 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Whole of Government Indigenous service delivery arrangements**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 5 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 11 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Management of the FFG capability upgrade—Department of Defence; Defence Materiel Organisation**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 6 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 12 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Administration of high risk income tax refunds in the individuals and micro enterprises market segments—Australian Taxation Office**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 7 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 13 of 2007-08—Performance audit—The Australian Taxation Office's approach to managing self managed superannuation fund compliance risks—Australian Taxation Office**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 8 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 14 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Performance audit of the Regional Partnerships Programme—**  
    **Volume 1: Summary and recommendations**  
    **Volume 2: Main report**  
    **Volume 3: Project case studies—**  
    **Department of Transport and Regional Services**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 9 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 15 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Administration of Australian business number registrations: Follow-up audit—Australian Taxation Office**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 10 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 16 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Data integrity in the child support agency—Child Support Agency; Department of Human Services**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 11 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 17 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Management of the IT refresh programme—Centrelink**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 12 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 18 of 2007-08—Financial statement audit—Audits of the financial statements of Australian Government entities for the period ended 30 June 2007**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

- 13 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 19 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Administration of the Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme—Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; Australian Customs Service**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 14 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 20 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Accuracy of Medicare claims processing—Medicare Australia**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).
- 15 **Auditor-General—Audit report no. 21 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Regional delivery model for the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality—Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**  
Consideration (12 February 2008).

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## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Notices of Motion

*Notice given 12 February 2008*

- 5 **Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* to limit unfair banking and credit card penalty fees, and for related purposes. *Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008*.
- 7 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To move—That the Senate—
  - (a) notes that:
    - (i) the military junta in control of Myanmar, the State Peace and Development Council, has announced its intention to hold a constitutional referendum in May 2008, in advance of national elections by 2010,
    - (ii) the drafting of guidelines for the new constitution has not involved representatives of the National League for Democracy (NLD) or minority ethnic groups and comes at a time when many pro-democracy activists are in prison, and
    - (iii) a clause in the draft constitutional guidelines guarantees the military 25 per cent of the seats in the country's parliament;
  - (b) expresses concern that this process will merely entrench military rule under the guise of democracy;
  - (c) welcomes the Australian Government's long-term advocacy for pro-democracy and ethnic minority groups in Myanmar; and
  - (d) urges the Government to:
    - (i) consider additional measures to pressure the military junta to adopt democratic reforms, and

(ii) lobby India, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to:

- (A) call for the release of NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, and
- (B) acknowledge the ‘roadmap to democracy’ as deeply flawed and pressure the junta to adopt a dialogue with pro-democracy and ethnic minority representatives for a genuinely inclusive constitutional drafting process.

*Notice of motion altered on 13 February 2008 pursuant to standing order 77.*

**8 Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 to set renewable power percentages for the period commencing 1 January 2008 and ending 31 December 2020. ***Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008.***

**9 Senator Heffernan:** To move—

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries be appointed to initially inquire into and report by 16 June 2008, on the following matter:  
The pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global chemical and fertiliser markets, the implications for Australian farmers of world chemical and fertiliser supply and pricing arrangements, monopolistic and cartel behaviour and related matters.
- (2) That the committee consist of 6 senators, 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 minority groups and independent senators.
- (3) 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.
- (4) That the committee elect an Opposition member as chair.
- (5) That the committee elect a 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.
- (6) That, in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or deputy chair when acting as chair, shall have a casting vote.
- (7) That the quorum of the committee be 4 members.
- (8) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (9) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members.
- (10) 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.

- (11) 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.
  - (12) 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.
- 10 **Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act for the administration of poker machine harm reduction tax and the establishment of the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Transition Fund, and for related purposes. *Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008*.
- 11 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997*, and for related purposes. *Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008*.
- 13 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes the Reserve Bank of Australia's concern about 'significant inflation pressures' and the Rudd Government's call for wage restraint from Australian workers; and
  - (b) acknowledges that parliamentarians should lead by example in that wage restraint.
- 14 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes that at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007, an action plan was agreed to, which, *inter alia*, resolved to:
    - (i) urgently enhance implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change,
    - (ii) respond to the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that delay in reducing emissions significantly constrains opportunities to achieve lower stabilisation levels and increases the risk of more severe climate change impacts, and
    - (iii) adopt a decision at the UNFCCC meeting in 2009 on the sustained implementation of the convention, through long-term cooperative action after the end of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012;
  - (b) agrees that it is in the interest of current and future Australians that the Bali Action Plan succeed in producing an international agreement which minimises the risk of dangerous interference with the climate; and
  - (c) calls on the Government to contribute in good faith to a timely successful implementation of the Bali Action Plan.
- 15 **Senator Milne:** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes that:
    - (i) in December 2007, the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) said that the Government believe that 'climate change represents one of the greatest moral, economic and environmental challenges of our age',

- (ii) on 6 February 2008, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation (Mr Tanner) announced funding cuts to climate-related programs, including \$3 million from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Research Vessel Southern Surveyor, \$6 million from the Biodiversity Hotspots program and \$42 million from the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program, and
- (iii) in 2007, the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology in Sydney calculated that perverse subsidies supporting fossil fuel industries amounted to between \$6.4 billion and \$7.2 billion in the 2005-06 financial year; and
- (b) calls on the Government to phase out perverse subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and to reverse its decision to cut funding to research into climate change science and renewable energy programs.

*Notice given 13 February 2008*

- \*16 **Senator Bartlett:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to provide for ex gratia payments to be made to the stolen generation of Aboriginal children, and for related purposes. ***Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008.***
- \*18 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—
  - (a) notes:
    - (i) the contempt in which the Australian Labor Party (ALP) has historically held upper houses around the country, including a platform to abolish all upper houses until 1979, the abolition of the upper house in Queensland and a current policy to abolish the South Australian Legislative Council,
    - (ii) that the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) has reduced the number of sitting weeks in the Senate in 2008, and
    - (iii) that the Deputy Prime Minister (Ms Gillard) has already demanded legislation be passed without adequate scrutiny in the Senate; and
  - (b) given the above, condemns the Rudd Labor Government for continuing the ALP's legacy of inherent contempt for the Senate.
- \*19 **Senator Bartlett:** To move—That the Senate—
  - (1) That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.
  - (2) That the following bills be restored to the *Notice Paper* and that consideration of each bill resume at the stage reached in the 41st Parliament:
    - Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill 2006
    - Constitution Alteration (Appropriations for the Ordinary Annual Services of the Government) 2001 [2004]
    - Constitution Alteration (Electors' Initiative, Fixed Term Parliaments and Qualification of Members) 2000 [2004]
    - Electoral (Greater Fairness of Electoral Processes) Amendment Bill 2007
    - Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003 [2004]
    - Euthanasia Laws (Repeal) Bill 2004
    - Genetic Privacy and Non-discrimination Bill 1998 [2004]



Ministers of State (Post-Retirement Employment Restrictions) Bill 2002 [2004]  
 National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007  
 Parliamentary Charter of Rights and Freedoms Bill 2001 [2005]  
 Patents Amendment Bill 1996 [2004]  
 Peace and Non-Violence Commission Bill 2007  
 Privacy (Data Security Breach Notification) Bill 2007  
 Privacy (Extension to Political Acts and Practices) Amendment Bill 2006  
 Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising Bill 2006  
 Public Interest Disclosures Bill 2007  
 Repatriation of Citizens Bill 2007  
 Republic (Consultation of the People) Bill 2001 [2004]  
 Same-Sex Marriages Bill 2006  
 Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007  
 State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2004]  
 Taxation Laws Amendment (Scholarships) Bill 2005  
 Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003 [2004]  
 Uranium Mining in or near Australian World Heritage Properties (Prohibition) Bill 1998 [2004]  
 Workplace Relations (Guaranteeing Paid Maternity Leave) Amendment Bill 2007.

\*20 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) in December 2007 Ausra Inc. announced that it will build a manufacturing plant in Nevada for solar thermal power systems,
  - (ii) Ausra's innovations in mirror systems have brought the price of solar power down to the level of gas-fired power and is expected soon to be price competitive with coal-fired power, and
  - (iii) the plant will produce 700 MW a year in solar thermal power systems for the American Southwest;
- (b) congratulates the founder of Ausra, world-renowned, Dr David Mills, for this development and for his longstanding solar technology innovation at the University of Sydney, including:
  - (i) the evacuated tube solar water heater technology that is now in use in 60 per cent of these units worldwide,
  - (ii) the Compact Linear Fresnel Reflector for use in solar thermal energy,
  - (iii) photovoltaic systems, and
  - (iv) a solar steriliser design which won a World Health Organization award in 2002;
- (c) regrets that the economic benefits of this important innovation in renewable, clean, base load power have been lost to Australia; and
- (d) urges the Government to:
  - (i) recognise that Australia, like Nevada and California, has excellent sources of solar energy from which to generate solar thermal base load power, and
  - (ii) provide the necessary incentives for the technology to also be established in Australia.

\*21 **Senator Ellison:** To move—

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on State Government Financial Management be established to inquire into and report upon:

Commonwealth and state and territory fiscal relations and state and territory government financial management, including:

- (a) Commonwealth funding to the states and territories – historic, current and projected;
  - (b) the cash and fiscal budgetary positions of state and territory governments – historic, current and projected;
  - (c) the level of debt of state/territory government businesses and utilities – historic, current and projected;
  - (d) the level of borrowing by state/territory governments – historic, current and projected;
  - (e) an examination of state/territory net government debt and its projected level – historic, current and projected;
  - (f) the reasons for any government debt including an analysis of the level and efficiency of revenue and spending;
  - (g) the level of investment in infrastructure and state-owned utilities by state and territory governments;
  - (h) the effect of dividends paid by state-owned utilities on their ability to invest;
  - (i) present and future ownership structures of current and former state-owned utilities and the impact of ownership on investment capacity; and
  - (j) the effect of investment by state-owned utilities on Australia's capacity constraints.
- (2) That the committee present its final report on or before 16 June 2008.
- (3) That the committee consist of 6 senators, as follows:
  - (a) 2 to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate;
  - (b) 3 to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate; and
  - (c) 1 to be nominated by minority groups or independents.
- (4) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all members have not been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (5) That the committee elect as chair one of the members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.
- (6) That the quorum of the committee be 3 members
- (7) That the chair of the committee may, from time to time, appoint another member of the committee to be the deputy chair of the committee, and that the member so appointed act as chair of the committee at any time when there is no chair or the chair is not present, at a meeting of the committee.
- (8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.

- (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider, and that the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members.
- (10) 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 such interim recommendations as it may deem fit.
- (11) 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.
- (12) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.

\*22 **Senator Ellison:** To move—

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Housing Affordability in Australia be established to inquire into and report upon:  
The barriers to home ownership in Australia, including:
  - (a) the taxes and levies imposed by state and territory governments;
  - (b) the rate of release of new land by state and territory governments;
  - (c) proposed assistance for first home owners by state, territory and the Commonwealth governments and their effectiveness in the absence of increased supply;
  - (d) the role of all levels of government in facilitating affordable home ownership;
  - (e) the effect on the market of government intervention in the housing sector including planning and industrial relations laws;
  - (f) the role of financial institutions in home lending; and
  - (g) the contribution of home ownership to retirement incomes.
- (2) That the committee present its final report on or before 16 June 2008.
- (3) That the committee consist of 6 senators, as follows:
  - (a) 2 to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate;
  - (b) 3 to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate; and
  - (c) 1 to be nominated by minority groups or independents.
- (4) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all members have not been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (5) That the committee elect as chair one of the members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.
- (6) That the quorum of the committee be 3 members.
- (7) That the chair of the committee may, from time to time, appoint another member of the committee to be the deputy chair of the committee, and that the member so appointed act as chair of the committee at any time when there is no chair or the chair is not present, at a meeting of the committee.

- (8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
  - (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider, and that the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members.
  - (10) 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 such interim recommendations as it may deem fit.
  - (11) 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.
  - (12) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.
- \*23 **Senator Nettle:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Marriage Act 1961* to create marriage equality for all relationships regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for related purposes. ***Marriage (Relationships Equality) Amendment Bill 2008.***
- \*24 **Senator Siewert:** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes the evidence provided to the Government by its ship, the *Oceanic Viking*, of whales being slaughtered in Australia's Antarctic Territorial waters;
  - (b) expresses deep concern at the continued killing of these whales in Australian waters; and
  - (c) urges the Government to take immediate action to ensure an end to the slaughter of the whale population, including through the commencement of legal action.
- \*25 **Senator Nettle:** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes the comments of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East on 29 January 2008 that the blockade of Gaza has incarcerated 1.5 million Palestinians, reduced to barely subsistence levels their supplies of food, medicine, fuel and other necessities and has generated fear, fury and distress amongst the Palestinians, through air strikes, incursions, assassinations and other military action that regularly takes civilian lives; and
  - (b) calls on the Australian Government to make representations to the Israeli Government to immediately lift the blockade of Gaza.

## Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

### 1 Commissioner for Superannuation (ComSuper)—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**2 Director of National Parks—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**3 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**4 Crimes Act 1914—Controlled operations—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**5 Office of Parliamentary Counsel—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**6 Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**7 Australian Government Solicitor—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**8 Federal Court of Australia—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**9 Department of the Environment and Water Resources—Reports for 2006-07—****Volume 1—Department of the Environment and Water Resources****Volume 2—Legislation**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**10 Australian Film Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**11 Attorney-General's Department—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**12 Future Fund Board of Guardians and Future Fund Management Agency (Future Fund)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Watson—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Watson, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**13 Australian Customs Service—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

14 ***Interactive Gambling Act 2001—Report for 2006 on the operation of the prohibition on interactive gambling advertisements***

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

15 **Australian Federal Police—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

16 **Department of the Treasury—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

17 **Wet Tropics Management Authority—Report for 2006-07, including State of the Wet Tropics report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

18 **Commonwealth Ombudsman—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

19 **Australian Institute of Criminology and Criminology Research Council—Reports for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

20 **National Native Title Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

21 **Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

22 **Centrelink—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

23 **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

24 **National Water Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

25 **Family Law Council—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**26 CrimTrac Agency—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**27 Australian Electoral Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**28 Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**29 Sydney Harbour Federation Trust—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**30 Department of Finance and Administration—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**31 Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Report of the Integrity Commissioner for the period 30 December 2006 to 30 June 2007**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**32 Office of the Privacy Commissioner—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the Privacy Act 1988**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**33 Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**34 Administrative Appeals Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**35 Federal Magistrates Court of Australia—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**36 Department of Transport and Regional Services—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**37 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**38 Australian Research Council—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**39 Crimes Act 1914—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Report for 2006-07—Australian Customs Service**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**40 Indigenous Land Corporation—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**41 Family Court of Australia—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**42 Customs Act 1901—Conduct of customs officers [Managed deliveries]—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**43 Central Land Council—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**44 Northern Land Council—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**45 Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**46 Natural Heritage Trust of Australia—Report for 2005-06**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**47 Administrative Review Council—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**48 Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**49 Public Service Commissioner—Report for 2006-07, including report of the Merit Protection Commissioner**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**50 Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Watson—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Watson, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**51 Inspector-General of Taxation—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Watson—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Watson, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).



**52 Superannuation Complaints Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Watson—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Watson, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**53 Tiwi Land Council—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**54 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**55 Department of Immigration and Citizenship—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**56 Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**57 National Health and Medical Research Council—NHMRC Embryo Research Licensing Committee—Report on the operation of the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* for the period 1 April to 30 September 2007**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**58 National Capital Authority—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**59 Migration Agents Registration Authority—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**60 Australian Crime Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**61 International Air Services Commission—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**62 Civil Aviation Safety Authority—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**63 National Health and Medical Research Council—Report for the period 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2007**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Nash, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*64 Australian Government Solicitor—Statement of corporate intent 2007-08**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Sherry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*65 National Security Information (Criminal and Civil Proceedings) Act 2004—Non-disclosure and witness exclusion certificates—Reports for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Sherry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*66 Medibank Private Limited—Statement of corporate intent 2008-2010**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Sherry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*67 IIF Investments Pty Limited, IIF (CM) Investments Pty Limited, IIF BioVentures Pty Limited, IIF Foundation Pty Limited and IIF Neo Pty Limited—Reports for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Sherry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*68 Gene Technology Regulator—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2007**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Sherry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*69 National Blood Authority—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Senator Sherry)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Sherry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*70 Crimes Act 1914—Authorisations for acquisition and use of assumed identities—Report for 2006-07—Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*71 Copyright Agency Limited—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*72 Audio-Visual Copyright Society Limited (Screenrights)—Report for 2006-07**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

**\*73 Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979—Report for 2006-07 on the operations of the Act**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

- \*74 ***Surveillance Devices Act 2004—Report for 2006-07 on the operation of the Act***  
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).
- \*75 **Australian Law Reform Commission—Report no. 107—Privilege in perspective: Client legal privilege in federal investigations, dated January 2008**  
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Parry—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Parry, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).
- \*76 ***Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of appropriateness of detention arrangements—Government response to reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman—Personal identifiers 221/07 to 346/07, dated 12 February 2008***  
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

## Orders of the Day

- \*1 **Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**  
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2008*).
- \*2 **Qantas Sale (Keep Jetstar Australian) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**  
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2008*).
- \*3 **Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)**  
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2008*).
- \*4 **Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Bartlett)**  
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

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## BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

### Next day of sitting (11 March 2008)

#### Business of the Senate—Notice of Motion

*Notice given 13 February 2008*

- \*1 **Senator Milne:** To move—
- (1) That the Senate notes:
    - (a) the housing affordability crisis in Australia and the need for a national affordable housing agreement;

- (b) the need to upgrade Australia's building stock and strengthen building regulations to increase the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings, both residential and commercial;
  - (c) the central role played by the Housing Industry Association in developing government policy;
  - (d) the relationship between housing affordability and mandatory privatised last resort builders warranty insurance particularly, the increasing number of complaints from builders and consumers concerning the failure of the last resort warranty insurance regime to provide consumer or builder protection; and
  - (e) the decision in March 2002 to remove all Commonwealth and state regulatory controls over last resort warranty insurance.
- (2) That the following matter be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by May 2008:  
Australia's mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme, including:
- (a) the appropriateness and effectiveness of the current mandatory privatised Last Resort Builders Warranty Insurance scheme in providing appropriate consumer protection and industry management;
  - (b) the reasons for and consequences of the ministerial decisions relating to the removal of consumer protection provisions in respect of Corporations Regulation 7.1.12(2);
  - (c) the ramifications for the future supply of this insurance product following the draft recommendations from the Productivity Commission report released in December 2007;
  - (d) the full investigation of the market failure of this insurance product in Tasmania which has resulted in the Tasmanian Government announcing in January 2008 that the product is to be scrapped over the next 12 months;
  - (e) any potential reforms and their costs and benefits which may lead to appropriate consumer and builder protection and improved housing affordability; and
  - (d) any related matters.

#### Government Business—Orders of the Day

\*1 **Cross-Border Insolvency Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (13 February 2008).

\*2 **Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Review of Prudential Decisions) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (13 February 2008).

## General Business—Notice of Motion

*Notice given 13 February 2008*

\*17 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) among Indigenous Australians, blindness and visual impairment is significantly higher than in other populations,
- (ii) most blindness and vision loss is preventable or correctable and for each \$1 spent on eye care there is a \$5 return,
- (iii) trachoma is the most common cause of infectious blindness and Australia is the only developed country that still has blinding endemic trachoma:
  - (A) the study *Surveillance report for active trachoma, 2006* for which Aboriginal children from most regions of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia were screened, showed prevalence rates of active trachoma of 16 per cent in rural Darwin, 30 per cent in Katherine, 21 per cent in Barkly, 18 per cent in Alice Springs Remote, 18 per cent in Nganampa, 18 per cent in Tullawon, 12 per cent in Pika Wiya, 18 per cent in Kimberley, 53 per cent in Pilbara, and 19 per cent in Western Australia's midwest and goldfields,
  - (B) rates of active trachoma are highest in young children and for children aged 0-5 who were for the most part not included in the survey and therefore rates could be expected to be higher,
  - (C) concerted trachoma control activities over the past 10 years have eliminated active trachoma in Morocco, Oman and Iran, and
  - (D) even in Niger, the poorest country in Africa, trachoma is being controlled by an active intervention program,
- (iv) cataracts occur more commonly in Aboriginal people, and Indigenous Australians report vision loss from cataracts 50 per cent more commonly than mainstream Australia, and
- (v) few Aboriginal people have access to refractive services, although 20 per cent of all children need glasses and there is an almost universal need for reading glasses over the age of 40;
- (b) according to the Centre for Eye Research Australia, trachoma can be eliminated in Australia, vision loss substantially reduced and equality in eye health for all Australians achieved within 5 years; and
- (c) urges the Government to provide \$25 million over 5 years for:
  - (i) antibiotics for active trachoma, screening and programs promoting facial cleanliness, environmental improvement and trichiasis surgery for later stage trachoma to prevent irreversible blindness,
  - (ii) sustainable programs for screening for diabetic retinopathy and timely laser treatment,
  - (iii) regular eye examinations, and
  - (iv) current eye health data.

**On 18 March 2008**

## Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

**\*1 Standing Committees**

Reports to be presented on the 2007-08 additional estimates.

## Government Business—Order of the Day

**\*1 Issues from the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2007**

Consideration in committee of the whole (*13 February 2008*).

**On 24 June 2008**

## Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

**\*1 Standing Committees**

Reports to be presented on the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE***Questions remaining unanswered*

No questions have remained unanswered for more than 30 days.

*Notice given 12 February 2008***1 Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Melbourne Anglican Synod recently moved the following ‘without dissent’ motion: ‘That this Synod regrets the Government’s adoption of procedures for certain people seeking political asylum in Australia which exclude them from all public income support while withholding permission to work, thereby creating a group of beggars dependent on the Churches and charities for food and the necessities of life; and calls upon the Federal Government to review such procedures immediately and remove all practices which are manifestly inhumane and in some cases in contravention of our national obligations as a signatory of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights’.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that, as at 23 September 2007, material aid valued at \$1 608 925 has been distributed to the benefit of: (a) asylum seekers on bridging visas (\$840 456); (b) refugees from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan (\$743 100); and (c) tsunami victims in Sri Lanka (\$25 369).
- (3) (a) When will the Government change the refugee laws so that asylum seekers do not continue to be ‘beggars dependent on the Churches and charities for food and the necessities of life’; and (b) if there is no intention to change the laws, how does the Government consider the needs of such people will be met in the future.

- 2 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the [former] Minister's press release of 8 May 2007, '\$150 million more for solar technology', can details be provided of the 'targeted scheme to support the design and installation of solar systems on commercial, industrial and iconic buildings', including the budget, commencement date and criteria involved.
- 3 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—In regard to the approximately 300 000 Australians suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS):
- (1) Is the Minister prepared to provide the necessary funds for the establishment of a research facility and centre of excellence for ME/CFS, in order to address the lack of biomedical research into the illness.
  - (2) (a) Will funds and access to expert resources be provided to improve support services to sufferers and their carers and to raise awareness within the community on management and prevention strategies; and (b) will support and funding be provided to the national association, ME/CFS Australia.
- 4 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—With reference to the Healthy and Active Transport (HEAT) policy proposal, developed by national and state cycling organisations, including the Bicycle Federation of Australia and the Cycling Promotion Fund, which proposes that \$200 million be committed by the Commonwealth Government to local government, over a 4 year period, to assist the provision of cycling infrastructure and facilities: does the Minister intend to provide funding to the HEAT program; if so, can details be provided of the Government's commitment; if not, are there any other Government plans in place to support the growing number of cyclists and cycling organisations.
- 5 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to logging in the forests of the Tiwi Islands:
- (1) (a) Who was the administrator of the islands when the logging proposal was adopted; and (b) what role did the Australian Government take.
  - (2) Have any breaches of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* occurred; if so, are they being checked.
  - (3) What supervisory role has the Minister taken.
  - (4) What further forest clearance is planned.
  - (5) In what way is the deforestation of the Tiwi Islands consistent with the Prime Minister's declared wish to help end deforestation in Indonesia.
- 6 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 3242 (Senate *Hansard*, 10 September 2007, p. 191): using existing Australian facilities, how long would it take to dispose of the stockpile of hexachlorobenzene waste at Botany Bay, Sydney.
- 7 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to Gunns Limited's proposed pulp mill in Bell Bay, Tasmania:
- (1) Who will be appointed to the Independent Expert Group.

- (2) How stringently will the group be expected to interpret the conditions placed on the mill.
- (3) (a) Will the Government insist on longer-term and more comprehensive studies relating to the hydrodynamics of the 30 billion litres of effluent which will be released by the mill each year; and (b) given that the \$2 billion mill will be in construction when the studies are completed, will the Government withdraw approval for the mill to operate if the expectations are not met.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the wood supply agreement has been finalised but that it contains scant protection for high conservation value forests.
- (5) How will the Government honour its election promise to ensure that as little high conservation value forest as possible is fed to the mill.

8 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) What action will the Government take to remedy the critical situation of wetlands such as the Coorong and the Macquarie Marshes.
- (2) Will the Minister fast-track the return of water to these wetlands; if so, how.
- (3) Given the obligations of Australia under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, how will the Government explain the dire state of many of Australia's wetlands at the Ramsar conference of the parties in October and November 2008.
- (4) Is there evidence of environmental water theft in Ramsar sites, such as the Macquarie Marshes; if so, what steps will be taken to protect the water supply of these sites.

9 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) Will the Government follow the bipartisan advice of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage in its report, *Sustainability for survival: creating a climate for change* and establish a sustainability charter; if not, why not.
- (2) Will the Government introduce legislation to establish a national sustainability commission, headed by a sustainability commissioner.
- (3) Will the Government act to repeal the *Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2006*, which weakened the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (the Act), and/or introduce further amendments so that the Act can achieve its aims of minimising the degradation of Australia's ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.
- (4) Will the Government introduce a greenhouse trigger into the Act; if so, what will be its threshold.

11 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—With reference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007: (a) which individuals were included in the Australian Government delegation to the conference; and (b) for each of these people, which organisation did she or he represent.



**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 13-48)—As at 26 November 2007, with reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) How many employees are engaged in positions responsible for public affairs, media management, liaison with the media and media monitoring.
- (2) What are the responsibilities of these staff.
- (3) What are the Australian Public Service classifications of these positions.
- (4) For each of the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, what is the current operating budget for these media-related sections within the department or agency.

- 13 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 14 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 15 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 16 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 17 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 18 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 19 Special Minister of State
- 20 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 21 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 22 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 23 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 24 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 25 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 26 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 27 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 28 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 29 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 30 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 31 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 32 Minister for Human Services
- 33 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 34 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 35 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 36 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 37 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 38 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 39 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 40 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 41 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 42 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation

- 43 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 44 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 45 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 46 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 47 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 48 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 49-84)—As at 26 November 2007, with reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) What is the total number of permanent staff employed on a: (a) full-time; (b) part time; or (c) part-time, equivalent basis.
- (2) How many employees are employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period.
- (3) What are the base and top level salaries of: (a) Australian Public Service level 1 to 6 officers; (b) executive level officers; (c) Senior Executive Service (SES) officers; and (d) equivalent officers.
- (4) How many officers are employed at executive level and SES level.
- 49 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 50 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 51 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 52 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 53 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 54 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 55 Special Minister of State
- 56 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 57 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 58 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 59 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 60 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 61 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 62 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 63 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 64 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 65 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 66 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 67 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 68 Minister for Human Services
- 69 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 70 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 71 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism

- 72 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 73 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 74 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 75 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 76 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 77 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 78 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 79 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 80 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 81 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 82 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 83 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 84 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 85-90)—With reference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia from 3 to 14 December 2007:

- (1) What was the length of stay of the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and any ministerial staff in Bali.
- (2) For the duration of the Minister's stay, and for the stay of any Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (3) (a) How many ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary; and (b) for these people, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (4) (a) How many officers from the department were in attendance at the conference; (b) what was the duration of attendance at the conference by these officers; and (c) for these officers, what was the total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

- 85 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 86 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 87 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 88 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 89 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 90 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

91 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the International Energy Agency (IEA) considers that coal-fired power stations which are more than 10 years old may not be able to be retro-fitted with clean coal technology without expensive upgrades.
- (2) How many coal-fired power stations in Australia are: (a) between 10 and 20 years old; (b) between 20 and 30 years old; (c) between 30 and 40 years old; and (d) more than 40 years old.

- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Owen Inquiry into Electricity Supply in New South Wales (Owen inquiry): (a) suggested energy losses of up to 30 per cent if greenhouse gases are captured and stored; and (b) indicated that clean coal technology is unlikely to be ready before 2020.
  - (4) Does the Government have any evidence that contradicts the IEA and the Owen inquiry advice; if so, what is that evidence.
  - (5) Will criteria for the proposed \$500 million National Clean Coal Fund take into account views of the IEA and the Owen inquiry; if so, in what way.
- 92 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme, initiated in 2001:
- (1) For each year of its operation, what has been the expenditure on the program,
  - (2) How many recipients, in each of the categories of individuals, pastoral stations, other businesses and aboriginal communities, have been recipients of funding under the program.
  - (3) What is the estimated level of displacement of diesel fuel due to the program.
  - (4) What is the estimated level of greenhouse abatement due to the program: (a) to date; and (b) to 2010.
- 93 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—
- (1) In the lead-up to the 2007 federal election, was there any appointments or reappointments to the Board of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS); if so: (a) who; (b) on what dates was the appointment made and accepted; and (c) for what period.
  - (2) (a) Can the Minister confirm that SBS staff are gagged by way of a confidentiality agreement; and (b) can a copy of a typical confidentiality agreement be provided.
  - (3) Can the Minister confirm that ordinary workers at SBS are not allowed to discuss any objections they may have about advertising on SBS with the mass media; if so, what is the reason for this ban.
  - (4) (a) What percentage of programming and how many hours is devoted to programs in Languages Other Than English (LOTE) in the evening prime time slot on a nightly basis on the main SBS television channel, that is, not SBS digital 2; and (b) what percentage is in English.
  - (5) Are there any advertisements in LOTE programs on SBS television: if so: (a) how much; and (b) are such advertisements in the same LOTE as the program LOTE to air or are such advertisements placed in English language programs.
  - (6) Does SBS television broadcast any English lesson programs aimed at new immigrants; if so, how many hours a week and in what time slots.
  - (7) In 2007, which programs were televised with breaks inserted by SBS in the circumstances where, those programs when supplied to SBS in their original format had not been produced, assembled or compiled with provision for any commercial breaks, such as British Broadcasting Corporation programs or cinema-release movies etc.

- (8) Given that the 2006 SBS 'Codes of Practice' makes no provision for a person to dispute the SBS interpretation of a 'natural break' by way of a formal complaint, and that section 5 of the code refers the placement of breaks to the 'Guidelines for the Placement of Breaks in SBS Television Programs' and also that under section 8 of the code, SBS is only required to respond to a formal complaint made under the code and not under the guidelines: how does SBS deal or propose to deal with: (a) complaints about a program being interrupted for a commercial break; and (b) objections to the SBS interpretation of a 'natural break'.
- (9) Why is the definition of 'natural break' in the guidelines different from the definition in the *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991*.
- (10) In relation to natural breaks are there any instances where guidelines 1.1 to 1.8 and 1.10 have been over-ridden by guideline 1.9; if so, can details be provided.
- (11) Is it the case that complaints concerning natural breaks cannot be made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority; if so, why.
- (12) Can details be provided of informal and formal complaints received by SBS in 2007 that related specifically to advertising and the interruption of programs for commercial breaks; if so, in each instance, what was the response by SBS, including those lodged as formal complaints but not recognised as such by SBS.
- (13) For the 12 months to 31 December 2007, how much revenue did SBS receive from all television advertising.
- (14) How much revenue did SBS receive from federal and state government advertising on SBS television for the 12 months to: (a) 31 December 2006; and (b) 31 December 2007.
- (15) If SBS was to stop interrupting programs for advertisements in 2008 and run commercials between programs only, as used to be the case until late 2006, what would be the estimated decrease in revenue, if any, from the 2007 level of revenue.
- (16) If SBS was to stop interrupting programs for advertisements and run advertisements between programs only, as used to be the case until late 2006, how much government funding, in dollar terms and in percentages of federal government funding for SBS, would be required to maintain current SBS operations for the next 12 months.
- (17) How much extra funding in dollar terms and in percentages of federal government funding for SBS would be required for the next 12 months in order to drop advertising completely.

**Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 94-95)—

- (1) Has the Minister or the department received any complaints regarding the practices of the Australian International Trade Association (AITA), including the practice of arranging inadequate visas for Australian teachers recruited to teach in China.
- (2) Does the practice of facilitating employment in China with inadequate visas breach any Commonwealth laws.
- (3) Has the department ever engaged in business with AITA, Mr Michael Guo or Mr Steven Guo (also known as Steven Moon); if so, can details be provided of the nature and extent of any such dealings.

- (4) Has the department or any of Australia's consulates or embassies received any complaints in relation to the conduct of AITA, Mr Michael Guo or Mr Steven Guo; if so, can details be provided of the nature and extent of any such complaint.
- (5) Will ministers be required to declare membership of AITA's 'honorary board', pursuant to the Prime Minister's 'Standards of Ministerial Ethics'.

94 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

95 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

**Senator Allison:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 96-98)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the study by Dr Judy Carman of the Institute of Health and Environmental Research in July 2006, commissioned by the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food, which reviewed abstracts listed on the AgBioWorld website ([www.agbioworld.org](http://www.agbioworld.org)) and found that they did not demonstrate that genetically-modified (GM) crops were safe for human consumption, as claimed, and that GM crops may be harmful to human health.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that: (a) of the nine abstracts remaining at the end of this process, the majority (six abstracts, or 67 per cent) show potentially adverse effects of GM crops on the health of the experimental animals, while three (33 per cent) found no adverse effects; (b) the six papers showing adverse effects found evidence that GM potatoes could harm the liver and gastrointestinal tract and GM soy could adversely affect the liver and pancreas; (c) one paper found that GM DNA from GM corn was detectable in the intestinal contents of pigs up to 48 hours after eating, making it available for uptake into tissues and gut bacteria; and (d) three papers found no adverse effects: (i) on the development and function of mouse testes from eating GM corn, (ii) on some biochemical measurements from eating GM potatoes, and (iii) on some pathology, haematology, biochemistry and urine measurements from eating GM soy.
- (3) In light of this study, will the Minister consider a moratorium on further GM crops in Australia, pending further independent, long-term, peer reviewed, multi-generational animal and human feeding studies, measuring outcomes relevant to human health.
- (4) In regard to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority's approval, in 2003, of the applications of Monsanto Aust Ltd and Bayer Crop Science Pty Ltd for GM canola: (a) which independent, long-term, peer reviewed, multi-generational animal and human feeding studies, measuring outcomes relevant to human health, were relied upon; and (b) which, if any, of these studies was conducted in Australia.
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that, of the crop samples so far grown, none has been released for independent, human health-related testing; if so, why.
- (6) Is there any requirement for Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator to review approvals of GM crops and foods as new information is received; if not: (a) why not; (b) when will the Minister announce such a requirement; and (c) how and when should such new information be reviewed.

- (7) (a) If GM canola is introduced into Australia and it is found to have adverse effects on the economy, farming systems, people or the environment, what processes are in place to remove the canola from Australia and/or the food supply; and (b) how effective are these processes likely to be.

96 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

97 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

98 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

99 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of plans by the United Kingdom's Department of Health to pilot a scheme which involves the training of pharmacists to prescribe the contraceptive pill in the same way that a general practitioner would, in order to improve access to contraception and reduce unplanned pregnancies.
- (2) What data is available on the relationship between contraceptive use and the rate of unintended pregnancy in Australia.
- (3) Does data available to the Government suggest that the requirement to obtain a prescription for the contraceptive pill and/or limited access to general practitioners is a factor in reducing contraceptive usage rates.
- (4) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve knowledge about, and use of, all methods of contraception.

100 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—Will the Government consider awarding Gold Cards to allied merchant seamen who served during World War II and who currently receive a services pension with a health condition; if not, why not.

103 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:

- (1) In regard to water quality initiatives: (a) following the implementation of the water efficiency labelling scheme for household appliances, fixtures and fittings, what progress has been made towards implementing minimum standards; (b) since the introduction of the labelling scheme, what evidence is there that: (i) consumers have adopted water efficient appliances, and (ii) the manufacture and retailing of more water efficient appliances, fixtures and fittings has been encouraged; and (c) what progress has been made towards developing best practice guidelines for urban water forms which minimise impervious areas, greywater re-use and on-site rainwater collection.
- (2) What progress has been made towards the establishment of a program to improve water quality in local government areas.

104 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:

- (1) In regard to the built environment, what progress has been made towards: (a) promoting sustainability of the built environment; and (b) developing a comparative study of building standards and codes, model building

specifications and best practice material and guidelines for green buildings, beyond the National Australian Built Environment Rating System.

- (2) In regard to the enhancement of environment education in schools: (a) what progress has been made towards assisting primary and secondary school students to understand how to improve the efficiency of resource use and integrating this into the day-to-day running of schools; (b) how many environment management systems have been put in place for demonstration schools; (c) of these demonstration schools, which are in low socioeconomic areas; and (d) to date, what has been the cost of this program.
- (3) In regard to the green car rating scheme: (a) what evidence is there that the Green Vehicle Guide (GVG) has influenced vehicle purchasing decisions; (b) will the Government consider making it mandatory to publish GVG ratings on advertising and marketing material for new car sales; if not, why not; and (c) will the Government consider introducing mandatory energy efficiency standards for imported and locally manufactured vehicles; if not, why not.

106 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening project:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the independent planning panel which assessed the initial Channel Deepening Environment Effects Statement (EES) found that ‘The failure to exhibit the document “Stage 2: Additional Environmental Survey Work”, was a significant procedural defect’ and that ‘The most expeditious remedy for potential parties procedurally disadvantaged by the non-exhibition of documentation will be to participate in the exhibition and public review of a successor document’.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Channel Deepening Supplementary Environment Effects Statement (SEES) *Human Health Risk Assessment — Head Technical Report*, produced by Golder Associates Pty Ltd in January 2007, cites an August 2006 report by Jennifer Hale, *Minor Maintenance Dredging Campaign — Water Quality Monitoring in the Dredge and Disposal Plumes* (the Hale report), as the source of water quality data relating to contaminated sediments.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Hale report does not report on any water quality sampling sites from within the Yarra River.
- (4) (a) Is the Minister aware that the Hale report was not included in the Channel Deepening SEES; and (b) will the Minister consider the report in his evaluation of the Channel Deepening Project (CDP) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- (5) (a) Is the Minister aware that the baseline benthic fauna surveys for the Port of Melbourne Dredged Material Ground (DMG), south-east DMG and Yarra River estuary, produced by Sinclair Knight Merz in September 2006, were not included in the Channel Deepening EES or SEES, and that a limited number of copies were made available only after public presentations to the inquiry had been delivered; and (b) will the Minister consider the report in his evaluation of the CDP under the Act.



- (6) (a) Is the Minister aware that the bioaccumulation study produced by Sinclair Knight Merz in April 2006 was not included in the Channel Deepening EES or SEES, and that a limited number of copies were made available only after public presentations to the inquiry had been delivered; and (b) will the Minister consider the study in his evaluation of the CDP under the Act.
- (7) Will the Minister respond to allegations that the documents not included in the SEES, referred to in paragraphs (4), (5) and (6), contain instances where elevated levels of toxins are overlooked, and that data is interpreted in a way that casts a more positive light on the CDP than is actually the case.
- (8) Is the Minister aware that the Channel Deepening SEES Executive Summary produced by the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) in April 2007 states, on page 31, that 'Extensive research by PoMC has identified no health risk concerns for recreational swimmers or consumers of fish caught in the lower reaches of the Yarra River as a result of the CDP'.
- (9) Given that no testing was done for dioxins and radionuclides in the SEES, will the Minister request that this be done.

107 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Is the Government aware that, according to clinical trials conducted by the United States of America's National Cancer Institute, Herceptin has been shown to reduce the risk of recurrence by approximately 30 per cent for people with HER-2 gene amplification in early stage breast cancer.
- (2) In the light of these findings, will the Government now consider allowing patients to access Herceptin on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for longer than the current limit of 12 months; if not, why not.

108 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Human Services—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that Centrelink provides all job seekers, including those not in receipt of unemployment benefit, with free access to JobSearch facilities; if so, why is it that unemployed job seekers are required to provide personal details about their marital status and dependents and are denied access to those services if they refuse.
- (2) What advice are Centrelink officers instructed to give job seekers in these circumstances.

109 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Does the Government stand by its commitment to support a nuclear weapons convention, made on 14 August 2007 by the then Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Robert McClelland in a speech to the United Nations Association.
- (2) Does the Government still consider the idea of a nuclear weapons convention as 'responsible and timely'; if so, to what extent and in what manner.
- (3) Will the Government support moves to implement a nuclear weapons convention in the terms suggested by the Middle Powers Initiative and the updated model nuclear weapons convention, adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as a discussion document in December 2007.

- (4) In detail, what is the Government's response to the updated model nuclear weapons convention, tabled by Malaysia and Costa Rica in the UN General Assembly Plenary in December 2007.
- (5) Will the Government proceed with the creation of a new Canberra Commission, as promised by the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) prior to the 2007 election; if so, when.
- (6) (a) Is the Minister aware that a key recommendation of the original Canberra Commission was the lowering of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems; and (b) how has the Government decided to respond to that recommendation and to recommendation 17 of the final report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee, chaired by Dr Hans Blix and tabled on 1 June 2006, to the same effect.
- (7) Does the Government consider the UN resolution 'Renewed determination toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons' (the renewed determination) to be an appropriate response.
- (8) In regard to the more recent resolution L.29 on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons system, co-sponsored by New Zealand, Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland: (a) in what way does it differ from the renewed determination; (b) why did Japan, a co-sponsor of the renewed determination, vote in favour of L.29; (c) were there any reasons, other than the exigencies of time, for the incoming Government not to have voted in support of resolution L.29 on operating status as Japan, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and New Zealand did; (d) what is the reaction of the Government to the passage of that text by the UN General Assembly in a vote of 136 to 3; (e) why did the three nations, with whom Australia so frequently votes, vote for this resolution while Australia abstained; (f) why was this abstention maintained in the UN General Assembly Plenary; (g) from which non-government organisations did the Government receive correspondence suggesting that it ought to change its vote in the Plenary; and (h) is there anything in the text of resolution L.29 that is, or could be interpreted as being, in any way destabilising; if so, what constructive changes might be made to the resolution.
- (9) Will the Government try to advance the issue of nuclear weapons operating status: (a) at the 2008 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee (NPT PrepCom); (b) at the next UN General Assembly First Committee; and/or (c) in its discussions with the United States of America and/or Russia.
- (10) Will the Government consider working together with: (a) New Zealand, Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland at the NPT PrepCom to write a working paper on nuclear weapons operational status; (b) the New Agenda group, both on this issue and more widely on nuclear disarmament issues at the NPT PrepCom; and (c) the New Agenda and the Non-Aligned Movement groups, as well as the western groups and the nuclear weapons states, to promote ongoing progress in nuclear disarmament and strategic stability both via the measures set out in the final report of the Year 2000 NPT review and in the renewed determination, and via a lowering in nuclear weapons operational readiness.

- (11) What further steps will the Government take towards: (a) lowering nuclear weapons operational readiness; and (b) bringing the world closer to the creation and implementation of a nuclear weapons convention, along the lines of the updated model convention submitted to the UN General Assembly Plenary.

110 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Since the Photovoltaic Rebate Programme started: (a) how many applications for the rebate have been received by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO); and (b) how many rebates have been granted.
- (2) Since the Solar Hot Water Rebate Programme started: (a) how many applications for the rebate have been received by the AGO; and (b) how many rebates have been granted.
- (3) Since the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme started: (a) how many applications under the program have been received by the AGO; and (b) how many applications have been granted.
- (4) Why has there been a delay in the processing and funding of the rebates.

111 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Is the Government aware of recent studies suggesting that: (a) sea levels are currently rising at a rate of 3 centimetres per decade; (b) if warming slows down at about +3°C, sea levels will continue rising by several metres in subsequent centuries; (c) a rise of approximately 2°C, which is forecast within the next several decades, could result in extensive melting of large parts of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, raising sea levels by several metres; (d) glaciers and ice caps fringing Greenland and West Antarctica are already showing rapid ice melt rates and decreasing snow falls; (e) sea levels were between 13 and 27 metres higher than today in the Pliocene era, 3 million years ago when temperatures were 2 to 3°C higher; and (f) approximately 130 000 years ago, when temperatures were 2°C higher, sea levels were between 6 and 8 metres higher than current levels.
- (2) What evidence, if any, does the Government have to suggest that these sea levels, which occurred at temperatures well within the projections of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, would not result with similar temperatures in the future.
- (3) How does the Government regard the risk, expressed by many scientists, of global warming reaching 'tipping points' involving the release of methane and a decrease in the ocean's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, which would result in the acceleration of climate change out of human control.
- (4) For the purposes of informing its policies on greenhouse abatement and climate change mitigations and adaptation, what levels above the pre-industrial age is the Government using as objectives for the years 2020, 2050 and 2100 for: (a) atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide; (b) global average near-surface air temperature; and (c) the scale of sea level rise.
- (5) If levels have not yet been identified: (a) when will they be identified; and (b) by what process.

112 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—

- (1) If the Government has not already procured SMArt 155 munitions, does it intend to.
- (2) In regard to the negotiation of a treaty to ban cluster munitions through the Oslo Process, does the Government: (a) believe that SMArt 155 munitions should be exempted from any treaty that bans cluster munitions; if so, what is the justification for this position; (b) oppose the inclusion of a transition period during which the use of cluster munitions would be permitted under the treaty; (c) support provisions that would prohibit a state party from being involved in the use of prohibited cluster munitions belonging to another country; and (d) support the view that any submunition-based weapons which might fall outside the definition of 'cluster munition' under the treaty should, if they are to be acquired by, or are currently in the possession of, the Government, meet certain effects-based criteria (e.g. in relation to the risk of unexploded ordnance) and cumulative technical criteria (e.g. in relation to self-destruct and self-deactivation mechanisms); if so, what specifically would these criteria be.
- (3) Does the Government support the decision by the Government of Israel not to provide de-miners in Lebanon with maps indicating the locations of cluster munition drops which took place during the war in 2006; if not, is the Government willing to publicly condemn the Government of Israel for that decision.

113 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—Does the Government intend to maintain: (a) its status as a nuclear umbrella state, by providing bases, ports and other infrastructure to the United States of America (US) for its nuclear war-fighting apparatus, thereby lending support to the idea that nuclear weapons bring security; if so, what is the justification for maintaining this status; and (b) the decades-long policy of neither confirming or denying whether and when US nuclear-armed warships enter Australian harbours.

114 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission report, *Same-Sex: Same Entitlements*:

- (1) Does the Government intend to:
  - (a) introduce an omnibus bill to remove discrimination from the 58 Commonwealth laws identified by the report as discriminating against same-sex couples and their families; if not, why not;
  - (b) remove all such discrimination from Commonwealth laws within a particular time frame; if so, what is that time frame;
  - (c) enact legislation that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexuality and/or gender identity and provide an avenue of legal redress to those who experience such discrimination; if so, when;
  - (d) create a national relationship registry that would allow opposite-sex and same-sex couples to register their relationships and giving such relationships automatic recognition under Commonwealth law;
  - (e) accept referrals of power from state governments over property division to enable the Commonwealth Government to treat same-sex couples in the same way as opposite-sex couples for the purposes of property law;

- (f) engage with state governments to achieve fairer laws in regard to parenting presumptions for, and adoptions by, people in same-sex relationships; and/or
  - (g) create a phase-in period for the social security changes recommended in the report as a way of mitigating adverse effects of the changes on the lives of those concerned; if so, how long will the phase-in period be.
- (2) Following the enactment of legislation aimed at implementing the recommendations of the report, does the Government intend to:
- (a) conduct an audit of government policy and regulation instructions potentially effected by the legislation; and/or
  - (b) initiate a public education campaign to notify same-sex couples of their new rights.
- 115 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to media responses by the Minister, spokespersons and the department: Has the Minister established guidelines on which media enquiries will be responded to by the Minister and his office and which media enquiries will be responded to by the department; if so, what are these guidelines.
- 116 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to overseas travel by the Minister and/or departmental and agency officers since 3 December 2007:
- (1) What overseas travel has been undertaken; (b) what was the purpose of the travel; (c) when did the Minister and/or officers depart Australia; (d) who travelled with the Minister and/or officers; and (e) when did the Minister and/or officers return to Australia.
  - (2) (a) Who did the Minister and/or officers meet during the visit; and (b) what was the time and date of each meeting.
  - (3) (a) On how many trips was the Minister and/or officers accompanied by a business delegation; and (b) can details be provided of each of these delegations.
  - (4) Who met the cost of travel and other expenses associated with the trip.
  - (5) What total travel and associated expenses, if any, were met by the department in relation to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; (c) the Minister's staff; and (d) departmental and/or agency staff.
  - (6) For the Minister, the Minister's family, the Minister's staff and for each departmental/agency officer, what were the costs, per expenditure item, including, but not necessarily limited to: (a) fares; (b) allowances; (c) accommodation; (d) hospitality; (e) insurance; and (f) other costs.
  - (7) (a) What was the total cost of air charters used by the Minister or his office or department; and (b) on how many occasions did the Minister or his office or department and associated agencies charter aircraft; and (c) in each case, what was the name of the charter company that provided the service and the respective costs.

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 117-152)—With reference to Senator Minchin's letter to the Minister representing the Prime Minister, dated 1 February 2008, can the following information be provided prior to each round of Estimates and for Additional Estimates by 13 February 2008:

- (1) (a) What appointments have been made by the Government (through Executive Council, Cabinet and ministers) to statutory authorities, executive agencies and advisory boards within the Minister's portfolio; and (b) for each appointment, what are the respective appointee's credentials.
- (2) How many vacancies remain to be filled by ministerial (including Cabinet and Executive Council) appointments.
- (3) What grants have been approved by the Minister from within the Minister's portfolio.
- (4) What requests have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to move funds within the Minister's portfolio.

- 117 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 118 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 119 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 120 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 121 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 122 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 123 Special Minister of State
- 124 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 125 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 126 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 127 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 128 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 129 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 130 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 131 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 132 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 133 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 134 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 135 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 136 Minister for Human Services
- 137 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 138 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 139 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 140 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 141 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 142 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 143 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 144 Minister representing the Minister for Housing

- 145 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 146 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 147 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- 148 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 149 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 150 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 151 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 152 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Minchin:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 153-188)—(a) Can details be provided of each election commitment the administration of which falls within the Minister's portfolio; and (b) what is the estimated value of each commitment.

- 153 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 154 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 155 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 156 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 157 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 158 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 159 Special Minister of State
- 160 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 161 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 162 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 163 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 164 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 165 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 166 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 167 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 168 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 169 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 170 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 171 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 172 Minister for Human Services
- 173 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 174 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 175 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 176 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 177 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 178 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 179 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 180 Minister representing the Minister for Housing

- 181 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 182 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 183 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- 184 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 185 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 186 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 187 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 188 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Cormann:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 189-224)—With reference to the Government's pre-election commitment to release surplus land in order to help ease the housing affordability crisis: (a) since 24 November 2007, what land owned by the department or any agency in the Minister's portfolio has been identified as surplus to requirements; and (b) what land is currently for sale or in the process of being sold.

- 189 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 190 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 191 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 192 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 193 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 194 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 195 Special Minister of State
- 196 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 197 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 198 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 199 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 200 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 201 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 202 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 203 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 204 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 205 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 206 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 207 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 208 Minister for Human Services
- 209 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 210 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 211 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 212 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 213 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 214 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs



- 215 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 216 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 217 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 218 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 219 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- 220 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 221 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 222 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 223 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 224 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Cormann:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 225-260)—

- (1) (a) Since 24 November 2007, what federal funding, programs and/or services to Western Australia have been cut and/or discontinued in any of the Minister's portfolio agencies; and (b) what savings have been made from these cuts.
  - (2) (a) What plans does the Government have to cut and/or discontinue federal funding, programs and/or services to Western Australia in any of the Minister's portfolio agencies in the coming period; and (b) what estimated savings would be made from these cuts.
- 225 Minister representing the Prime Minister
  - 226 Minister representing the Minister for Education
  - 227 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
  - 228 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
  - 229 Minister representing the Treasurer
  - 230 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
  - 231 Special Minister of State
  - 232 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
  - 233 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
  - 234 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
  - 235 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
  - 236 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
  - 237 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
  - 238 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
  - 239 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
  - 240 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
  - 241 Minister for Climate Change and Water
  - 242 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
  - 243 Minister representing the Attorney-General
  - 244 Minister for Human Services
  - 245 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
  - 246 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy

- 247 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 248 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 249 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 250 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 251 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 252 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 253 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 254 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 255 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- 256 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 257 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 258 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 259 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 260 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

**Senator Cormann:** To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 261-264)—With reference to the pre-election commitment that the Government will set a new 20 per cent renewable energy target to be met by 2020 and a further target to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2050:

- (1) Has any modelling been conducted by any of the Minister's portfolio agencies to assess the economic impact of either of the targets, specifically on how it would impact on inflation; if not, why not; if so: (a) have findings of that modelling been presented to the Government and/or the Minister; (b) what were these findings; (c) has the Minister endorsed these findings; if not, why not.
- (2) When will the findings of any economic modelling referred to in paragraph (1) be made public.

- 261 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 262 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 263 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 264 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

265 **Senator Ray:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—For each Minister, Assistant Minister or Parliamentary Secretary in each of the former government's portfolios: (a) was the Minister, Assistant Minister or Parliamentary Secretary provided with a pay television package by the department for: (i) the electorate office, (ii) the ministerial office in the home state, and/or (iii) home; and (b) if so, what was the cost of each pay television package.

266 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) (a) On what basis would persons applying for a visa to enter Australia receive a warning from the department that their conduct and character may prevent them from being granted a visa in the future; and (b) is an individual ever given the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information which forms the basis of an immigration official's decision to warn a person.

- (2) For each year since 1996: (a) how many people were denied a visa; and (b) how many of these determinations were based on a person: (i) having a past criminal conviction, and (ii) having been charged but not convicted of a crime.
- (3) (a) In relation to character grounds, other than criminal convictions, on what grounds will a decision be made to refuse a visa; and (b) what steps, if any, do immigration officials take to verify the information.
- (4) For each year since 1996, how many times has the Minister or the previous Minister exercised his or her discretion pursuant to section 499 of the *Migration Act 1958* to permit the entry of people into Australia.
- (5) For each year since 1996, how many people have exercised their appeal rights to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in relation to decisions to refuse entry on the basis of character grounds.

267 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) Under what legislation, regulations or codes are ‘public interest disclosure’ and/or whistleblower and like claims processed.
- (2) What criteria are used in the Australian Public Service generally to determine the validity of claims under ‘public interest disclosure’ situations, that is, by whistleblowers or people making whistleblower-like claims or allegations.
- (3) Does the criterion for assessing the validity of a whistleblower or a whistleblower type claim include any psychiatric or psychological assessment; if so, what is the legislative basis for such an assessment, including specific clauses.

268 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—

- (1) Does the Minister intend to reconvene a working party with a view to settling the remaining 16 Casualties of Telstra (COT) cases from the late 1990s.
- (2) What support, if any, is the Minister offering the remaining 16 COTs.
- (3) Will the Minister arrange an independent loss assessment for the remaining 16 COT cases so that full and final settlement can occur.

269 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What costs would be incurred and what ramifications are there if the administration of the Medicare Levy surcharge was adjusted to ensure that it affects or is calculated for same-sex couples on the same basis as mixed-sex couples.
- (2) In view of the Prime Minister’s statements in favour of ending discriminatory provisions, does the government intend to address this deficiency.

270 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) With reference to the former Treasurer’s statement of 27 June 2007 on the release of the 2006 census information that ‘the Census forms the basis for our electoral system, the provision of services and policy to meet the challenges that we face’: does this mean that the effects of fly-in and fly-out workers who record their domicile elsewhere, or of transient/tourist numbers, will not be sufficiently taken into account for the provision of

services in shires such as Roebourne and Wyndham East Kimberley; if not, how are fly-in fly-out or transient/tourist requirements factored in.

- (2) Given that, according to the recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census figures, in the Kimberley Region, between 2001 and 2006, the population of Broome has risen by only 1.8 per cent, or 1 240 people, and in the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, by just 0.4 per cent, or 133 people: (a) why do these figures differ from the shires' views as to significant real population growth; and (b) how were these figures arrived at, given, for instance, that school student numbers, a good indicator of permanency, in the region have risen by more than this amount in absolute terms (e.g. at Kununurra District High School, by at least 13 per cent).
- (3) Do census collectors obtain accurate figures from Indigenous communities in the Kimberley; if not, what is the degree of error.
- (4) Has the ABS investigated its figures to determine how such apparent small rises in overall population in the Kimberley can be possible, given the rise in housing demand and construction in these areas since the 2001 census and the overall increase in numbers of children enrolled in the local schools, in some areas, up at least 10 per cent.
- (5) Given that, according to an ABS seminar in Kununurra in 2007, the community was advised that the figures for the 2006 census were collated based on 'place of enumeration' while the method used in the 1996 census and the 2001 census was 'usual place of residence': (a) what impact has this change had on the census outcome; and (b) have Australians still continued to identify their usual place of residence (e.g. Perth) rather than place of enumeration (e.g. Argyle Mine).
- (6) Can the Treasurer confirm that any funding allocations from the Commonwealth, which are aligned to population numbers based on the census, will take into account other factors, such as housing demand and school enrolments in the East Kimberley, when considering funding allocation.

*Notice given 13 February 2008*

**\*271 Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What data is collected on the: (a) incidence and incidence rate trends for primary non-malignant and malignant brain tumours; and (b) outcomes of treatment options for primary non-malignant and malignant brain tumours.
- (2) Are clinical practice guidelines for the management of non-malignant and malignant brain tumours available.
- (3) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve knowledge about non-malignant and malignant brain tumours and best practice treatment.

**\*272 Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the decision to destroy the ancient forest in Weld River coupe WR15F:

- (1) (a) What is the necessity for the planned deforestation; and (b) what alternatives are available.
- (2) (a) What buffer will be kept between logging and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area; and (b) how will this be managed.

- (3) (a) Does this buffer or lack thereof, accord with World Heritage respect and values; and (b) have World Heritage experts agreed with this; if so: (i) who are the experts, (ii) what is their complete advice, and (iii) when was it given.
- (4) (a) What areas of the coupe will not be logged; (b) why; and (c) on whose advice.
- (5) Will Gunns Limited be a receiver of wood products from the coupe; if so: what volume and percentage of the commercial wood will go to Gunns Limited.
- (6) Has the Minister inspected logging in the World Heritage value forests of the Weld; if so, when; if not, why not.
- (7) Will the Minister, as part of his portfolio responsibilities, visit the Weld River coupe WR15F to ensure Tasmania's World Heritage values are not contravened in any way while the current Minister is in office.

\*273 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—Is it the case that flight attendants on domestic and international flights for Jetstar Airways may be required to work 12-hour shifts or, in extenuating circumstances, 24-hours shifts; if so, what are the implications for passenger safety; if not, what time limits apply to the shifts of flight attendants and flight crews on: (a) domestic flights; and (b) international flights for airlines in or entering Australia.

\*274 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the proposed Gunns Limited pulp mill: will the mill burn wood to produce electricity; if so: (a) what quantities of greenhouse gases will be produced by the mill's furnace; and (b) will the electricity produced be sold as 'green power' or as environmentally friendly; if so, will native forest wood be used.

\*275 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the proposed Gunns Limited pulp mill:

- (1) Over the life of the mill, how many tonnes of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, will be produced.
- (2) Can the Minister specify how this production of gases will be offset, either by activities outside the premises of the pulp mill or other means.

\*276 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) What agreements were made between scientists on the panel which assessed Gunns Limited's pulp mill and the Government.
- (2) If an agreement of concurrence on any other matter relating to the Chief Scientist's report to the Minister was made: (a) what were the full terms of the agreement; (b) who signed it; and (c) when was it signed.

\*277 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) (a) What discussions have taken place between the Minister and the Prime Minister, or their relevant offices or departments, relating to the involvement of the Chief Scientist, Dr Jim Peacock, and his appointment or the assessment of Gunns Limited's pulp mill; and (b) when did these discussions take place.

- (2) In what way, and when, was the Prime Minister informed of Dr Peacock's role, after his appointment to assess Gunns Limited's pulp mill.

\*278 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—

- (1) (a) How many ex-military aircraft are registered in Australia, by aircraft-type, by state/territory; and (b) how many of these aircraft are engaged in commercial operations, by aircraft-type, by state/territory.
- (2) Can an outline be provided of the regulatory regime that governs the operation of ex-military aircraft registered in Australia engaged in: (a) non-commercial; and (b) commercial operations.

\*279 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 'MOU on Handling and Slaughtering of Australian Live Animals' signed on 3 October 2006 by the former Minister and the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Mr Amin Ahmed Abaza:

- (1) Does the MOU relate to all animals exported from Australia to Egypt.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that there is no distinction made in the MOU in regard of agreed terms for the treatment of Australian sheep, for example whether they are sent to abattoirs or sold privately for home slaughter.
- (3) (a) Can the Minister confirm that, in Egypt, no enforceable legislation exists to prohibit cruelty to animals, within slaughterhouses or elsewhere, or to ensure that the conditions of the MOU are complied with; and (b) given that there is a lack of animal protection laws and that significant animal welfare issues are documented in Egypt, on what basis did the Minister believe that the conditions of the MOU would be complied with.
- (4) Can the Minister confirm that the former Minister and departmental officials were advised by representatives of Animals Australia, prior to the signing of the MOU, that the treatment and handling of sheep in Egypt did not comply with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines due to the prevalent practice of on-selling to private buyers and the inept and unregulated handling and slaughter practices that are used, even in major abattoirs, in Egypt.
- (5) What assurances about animal welfare standards in Egypt, if any, were made to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, and to the Australian Government, prior to the granting of an export permit for a consignment of approximately 40 000 sheep from Australia to Egypt in October and November 2006.
- (6) Can the Minister confirm that the former Minister was advised, in correspondence from Animals Australia dated 22 November 2006, that the welfare of the first shipment of sheep to Egypt since the signing of the MOU was at risk as the import was specifically for Eid-al-Adha (the 'Feast of Sacrifice'), the major religious festival during which sheep are sacrificed in the street and in homes; if so: did the former Minister: (a) confirm the information contained in the correspondence; and (b) take action by sending Australian Government representatives to Egypt to monitor the treatment of the sheep that arrived in Egypt in November 2006 in order to assess the adherence to the MOU; if not, why not, given the statement, in the document 'Frequently asked questions—Live trade export – Egypt on the department's website, that 'initial shipments will be closely monitored for compliance with the MOU provisions'.

- (7) Prior to the signing of the MOU, was there any assessment conducted by the Australian Government of market places, abattoirs, transport or handling standards in Egypt, and particularly any assessment of likely adherence to OIE animal welfare guidelines, and therefore the MOU, in regard to sheep; if so, can details of these assessments be provided.
- (8) What assurances were made, by either Mr Abaza or other representatives of the Government of Egypt, to Australian Government representatives in regard to the enforcement of the animal welfare provisions detailed in that MOU, and in particular the adherence to the OIE guidelines for the humane treatment and slaughter of Australian livestock.
- (9) Given that during additional estimates hearings of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee in February 2007, Mr Craig Burns, Executive Manager of the International Division of the department, stated, under questioning about the MOU, that the 'focus' is on the way Australian animals are treated in 'abattoirs and official handling facilities' (Committee *Hansard*, 14 February 2007, p. 57P) in Egypt, and that the footage aired on television of the Animals Australia investigation related to 'leakage from that official system' (p. 56P), can the Minister confirm that: (a) in Egypt no official slaughter and handling system is in place for sheep; and (b) for each of the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, Australian sheep have only been exported from Australia to Egypt in the lead-up to the Eid-al-Adha religious festival, and that a large proportion of these sheep are likely to be privately transported and slaughtered.
- (10) Given the eye witness, video and photographic evidence, gathered by Animals Australia in Cairo in December 2006, that show multiple and consistent breaches of the OIE guidelines, and therefore the MOU, what measures has the Government taken to investigate the documented breaches.
- (11) What measures can the Australian Government take to compel compliance with welfare requirements within an MOU, apart from refusing to supply livestock.
- (12) (a) What assurances, if any, has Egypt provided that any other shipment of animals from Australia to Egypt will be treated humanely; and (b) if such assurances have been made, does the Minister believe that the conditions of the MOU will be complied with in future given that the Egyptian Government has no capacity to enforce the conditions of the MOU in slaughterhouses or in private premises.
- (13) What further measures will the Australian Government put in place to ensure, and to assure the Australian public, that Australian animals exported to Egypt will be treated in accordance with the OIE guidelines.
- (14) Will the Australian Government refrain from issuing any further export permits for animals from Australia to Egypt if no additional and effective measures are in place to protect these animals.
- (15) Is the Minister aware that the Egyptian Government Organisation of Veterinary Services Animal Welfare Office has recently renewed its policy and practice of authorising the shooting and use of strychnine on stray dogs in the streets of Cairo.

- (16) Given that the Australian Government has, in recent years, negotiated MOUs with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Eritrea and Jordan on the trade in live animals which relate to the agreed off-loading of animals into the importing country in the event of a suspected disease issue, and were intended to protect against a rejection of Australian livestock similar to the *Cormo Express* incident and given the breaches of the MOU between Australia and Egypt that have been acknowledged in public statements by the Minister, and the apparent disregard by Egypt of the MOU, what confidence does the Minister have that similar MOUs entered into with the remaining countries will be honoured in the event of a suspected major on-board disease event.
- (17) Will the Australian Government report the failure of the Egyptian Government to adhere to the minimum animal handling and slaughter guidelines to the OIE.

\*280 **Senator Campbell:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—With reference to the Commonwealth Fleet Management Agreement:

- (1) Can a break-down be provided of all vehicles owned or leased by the Commonwealth Government under the Fleet Management Agreement, including: (a) the total number of vehicles; (b) vehicle type (e.g. sedan, wagon etc); and (c) user (e.g. department, authority etc).
- (2) Can a copy be provided of the Fleet Management Agreement.
- (3) Under the Fleet Management Agreement, does the Commonwealth have any say over the type of vehicles that are used.
- (4) Can full details be provided of any vehicles owned or leased by the Commonwealth which are not covered by the Fleet Management Agreement.

\*281 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—Are banks with an Australian banking licence permitted to hold data or records on accounts in associated banks or subsidiaries domiciled in known tax havens.

\*282 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) What action is the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) taking against the directors of Westpoint Corporation Pty Ltd.
- (2) Is the Minister aware of any proposed legislation or amendments that would have prevented the actions of the Westpoint directors.
- (3) Is the Minister aware of any representation made by ASIC to have legislation amended that would have prevented mezzanine finance deals similar to those employed by Westpoint.
- (4) Did ASIC believe that Westpoint mezzanine funds were regulated products.
- (5) On what dates did KPMG sign off on Westpoint's accounts in the past 6 years.
- (6) What action did the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) and ASIC take when they first discovered that Westpoint was acting as a bank without a licence.
- (7) Why did APRA and ASIC take a long time to realise that Westpoint was breaking the law.
- (8) Why has APRA not increased the limits for Financial Industry Complaints Service jurisdiction.



\*283 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Did the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) ever place any restrictions, formally or informally, on Mr Murray Nugent or the companies he was involved with, specifically Reward Insurance Ltd and Australian Home Warranty Pty Ltd, on writing licensed builder home warranty insurance (LBHWI) from 1 July 1999 onwards.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that Mr Nugent continued to write LBHWI through Rewards Insurance Ltd after 1 July 1999.
- (3) Can the Minister confirm that APRA has the power to disqualify an individual from holding roles within the Australian insurance industry; if so, why has APRA never moved to disqualify Mr Nugent from operating in the insurance industry.
- (4) If Reward Insurance Ltd was under the minimum capital requirements for insurance companies from 2001 onwards, why did not APRA shut the company down.
- (5) Can an outline be provided of all investigations, recommendations and directions undertaken and instigated into Reward Insurance Ltd since 1999 by: (a) APRA; and (b) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).
- (6) Can the Minister confirm that investigations by APRA and ASIC into Reward Insurance Ltd and Mr Nugent have stalled since May 2005; if so, why.

\*284 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the World Heritage nomination of Albany Old Gaol/Amity Heritage Precinct:

- (1) Who were the consultants that prepared nomination for the former Government.
  - (2) Did the consultants identify the Albany Old Gaol/Amity Heritage Precinct as a possible convict settlement site.
  - (3) Given that the above site is the oldest European heritage precinct settlement in Western Australia, clearly established under convict labour, why was this location not included by the Minister in the nomination.
  - (4) Given that the Western Australian Government and the city of Albany have already approved icon heritage status to Albany Anzac (with state and federal funding) and the implicit relationship between the Albany Waterfront project and the Residency Museum/Eclipse Museum/Old Gaol Heritage Precinct, was the Western Australian Minister for Housing and Works; Heritage; Indigenous Affairs; Land Information, the Honourable Michelle Roberts MLA and the city of Albany consulted as to the precinct's inclusion for nomination.
  - (5) Is the Minister now prepared to include the Heritage Precinct as an addendum to the nomination.
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## ORDERS OF THE SENATE

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### **Amendment to an order of continuing effect**

#### **1 Departmental and agency contracts—Order for production of documents**

That paragraph (7) of the order be amended to read as follows:

- (7) The Finance and Public Administration Committee consider the ongoing operation of the order and report on relevant developments from time to time.

*(Agreed to 1 March 2007 upon adoption of recommendation 13 in the Finance and Public Administration Committee's second report on the operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts (2003-06).)*

### **Committees**

#### **\*2 Amendment of committee names; Allocation of departments**

- (1) That standing order 25(1) be amended as follows:  
 Omit: 'Employment, Workplace Relations and Education'  
 Substitute: 'Education, Employment and Workplace Relations'  
 Omit: 'Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts'  
 Substitute: 'Environment, Communications and the Arts'.
- (2) That departments and agencies be allocated to legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:
  - Community Affairs*  
 Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
 Health and Ageing
  - Economics*  
 Treasury  
 Innovation, Industry, Science and Research  
 Resources, Energy and Tourism
  - Education, Employment and Workplace Relations*  
 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
  - Environment, Communications and the Arts*  
 Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
 Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

*Finance and Public Administration*

Parliament  
Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Climate Change)  
Finance and Deregulation  
Human Services

*Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade*

Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

*Legal and Constitutional Affairs*

Attorney-General  
Immigration and Citizenship

*Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport*

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

**3 Privileges—Standing Committee—Adoption of 94th report recommendation**

That the Senate authorise the President, if required, to engage counsel as *amicus curiae* if either the action for defamation against Mr David Armstrong or a similar action against Mr William O'Chee is set down for trial.

(Agreed to 4 September 2000.)

**4 Unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings**

That the following order operate as an order of continuing effect:

- (1) The Senate confirms that any disclosure of evidence or documents submitted to a committee, of documents prepared by a committee, or of deliberations of a committee, without the approval of the committee or of the Senate, may be treated by the Senate as a contempt.
- (2) The Senate reaffirms its resolution of 20 June 1996, relating to procedures to be followed by committees in cases of unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings.
- (3) The Senate provides the following guidelines to be observed by committees in applying that resolution, and declares that the Senate will observe the guidelines in determining whether to refer a matter to the Committee of Privileges:
  1. Unless there are particular circumstances involving actual or potential substantial interference with the work of a committee or of the Senate, the following kinds of unauthorised disclosure should not be raised as matters of privilege:
    - (a) disclosure of a committee report in the time between the substantial conclusion of the committee's deliberations on the report and its presentation to the Senate;
    - (b) disclosure of other documents prepared by a committee and not published by the committee, where the committee would have published them, or could appropriately have published them, in any event, or where they contain only research or publicly-available material, or where their disclosure is otherwise inconsequential;
    - (c) disclosure of documents and evidence submitted to a committee and not published by the committee, where the

- committee would have published them, or could appropriately have published them, in any event;
- (d) disclosure of private deliberations of a committee where the freedom of the committee to deliberate is unlikely to be significantly affected.
2. The following kinds of unauthorised disclosure are those for which the contempt jurisdiction of the Senate should primarily be reserved, and which should therefore be raised as matters of privilege:
- (a) disclosure of documents or evidence submitted to a committee where the committee has deliberately decided to treat the documents or evidence as in camera material, for the protection of witnesses or others, or because disclosure would otherwise be harmful to the public interest;
- (b) disclosure of documents prepared by a committee where that involves disclosure of material of the kind specified in paragraph (a);
- (c) disclosure of private deliberations of a committee where that involves disclosure of that kind of material, or significantly impedes the committee's freedom to deliberate.
3. An unauthorised disclosure not falling into the categories in guidelines 1 and 2 should not be raised as a matter of privilege unless it involves actual or potential substantial interference with the work of a committee or of the Senate.
4. When considering any unauthorised disclosure of material in the possession of a committee, the committee should consider whether there was any substantive reason for not publishing that material.
- (4) Before deciding to raise a matter of privilege involving possible unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, any committee may seek the guidance of the Committee of Privileges as to whether a matter should be pursued. If the committee decides that such a matter should be raised, it must consult with the Committee of Privileges before taking the matter further.
- (5) When applying this resolution a committee shall have regard to the matters set out in paragraphs 3.43 to 3.59 of the 122nd Report of the Committee of Privileges, June 2005.

*(Sessional order agreed to on 6 October 2005 adopted as an order of continuing effect on 17 September 2007.)*

**\*5 Substitute members of committees—Temporary order**

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

If a member of a committee appointed under standing order 25 is unable to attend a meeting of the committee, that member may in writing to the chair of the committee appoint a participating member to act as a substitute member of the committee at that meeting. If the member is incapacitated or unavailable, a letter to the chair of a committee appointing a participating member to act as a substitute member of the committee may be signed on behalf of the member by the leader of the party or group on whose nomination the member was appointed to the committee.

*(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also 'Meeting of the Senate' below.)*

## Estimates

### \*6 2007-08 Additional estimates—2008-09 Budget estimates—Hearings

- (1) That estimates hearings by standing committees for 2008 be scheduled as follows:

#### **2007-08 additional estimates:**

Monday, 18 February and Tuesday, 19 February and, if required, Friday, 22 February (*Group A*)  
 Wednesday, 20 February and Thursday, 21 February and, if required, Friday, 22 February (*Group B*).

#### **2008-09 Budget estimates:**

Monday, 26 May to Thursday, 29 May and, if required, Friday, 30 May (*Group A*)  
 Monday, 2 June to Thursday, 5 June and, if required, Friday, 6 June (*Group B*)  
 Monday, 20 October and Tuesday, 21 October, and if required, 24 October (*supplementary hearings—Group A*)  
 Wednesday, 22 October and Wednesday, 23 October and, if required, 24 October (*supplementary hearings—Group B*).

- (2) That the committees consider the proposed expenditure in accordance with the allocation of departments and agencies to committees agreed to by the Senate.  
 (3) That committees meet in the following groups:

#### **Group A:**

Environment, Communications and the Arts  
 Finance and Public Administration  
 Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

#### **Group B:**

Community Affairs  
 Economics  
 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

- (4) That the committees report to the Senate on the following dates:  
 (a) Tuesday, 18 March 2008 in respect of the 2007-08 additional estimates; and  
 (b) Tuesday, 24 June 2008 in respect of the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

## Meeting of Senate

### \*7 Meeting of Senate

That the days of meeting of the Senate for 2008 be as follows:

#### **Autumn sittings:**

Tuesday, 12 February to Thursday, 14 February

#### **Autumn sittings (2):**

Tuesday, 11 March to Thursday, 13 March  
 Monday, 17 March to Thursday, 20 March

**Budget sittings:**

Tuesday, 13 May to Thursday, 15 May

**Winter sittings:**

Monday, 16 June to Thursday, 19 June

Monday, 23 June to Thursday, 26 June

**Spring sittings:**

Tuesday, 26 August to Thursday, 28 August

Monday, 1 September to Thursday, 4 September

Monday, 15 September to Thursday, 18 September

Monday, 22 September to Thursday, 25 September

Monday, 13 October to Thursday, 16 October

**Spring sittings (2):**

Monday, 10 November to Thursday, 13 November

Monday, 24 November to Thursday, 27 November

Monday, 1 December to Thursday, 4 December.

*(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)*

**\*8 Hours of meeting and routine of business—Variation**

That, on Thursday, 14 February 2008:

- (a) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to adjournment;
- (b) consideration of general business shall not be proceeded with;
- (c) the routine of business from not later than 4.30 pm shall be further consideration of the motion to take note of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations; and
- (d) if that debate has not concluded by 6 pm, then:
  - (i) consideration of committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports under standing order 62(1) and (2) not be proceeded with, and
  - (ii) at the conclusion of the debate, the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed.

*(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)*

**\*9 Adjournment debate on Tuesday—Temporary order**

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

On the question for the adjournment of the Senate on Tuesday, a senator who has spoken once subject to the time limit of 10 minutes may speak again for not more than 10 minutes if no other senator who has not already spoken once wishes to speak, provided that a senator may by leave speak for not more than 20 minutes on one occasion.

*(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also 'Committees' above.)*

**\*10 Divisions on Thursday—Temporary order**

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

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.

*(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)*

## **Orders for production of documents**

### **11 Family and Community Services—Housing Assistance agreements—Order for production of documents**

(1) That the Senate:

- (a) notes that the Housing Assistance (Form of Agreement) Determination 2003 in Schedule 1, subsections 4(33) to 4(36) requires states to report on expenditure and progress towards their respective bilateral agreements to the Commonwealth within 6 months after the end of each grant year;
- (b) orders that there be laid on the table, no later than 3.30 pm on 12 May 2005, all reports provided by the states and territories to the Commonwealth under those provisions for the financial year 2003-04; and
- (c) orders that all reports provided by the states and territories to the Commonwealth under those provisions be tabled in the Senate within 5 sittings days, or one calendar month, after receipt (whichever is the later), and that the Senate be notified in writing by the Minister for Family and Community Services within 5 sitting days of the expiration of the 6 months if reports have not been provided within the required 6 months.

(2) That this order is of continuing effect.

*(Motion of Senator Bartlett agreed to 12 May 2005.)*

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## **CONTINGENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **Auditor-General’s reports—Consideration**

#### **1 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**

**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**

**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**

**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**

**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on the President presenting a report of the Auditor-General on any day or notifying the Senate that such a report had been presented under standing order 166)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion to take note of the report and any senator speaking to it for not more than 10 minutes, with the total time for the debate not to exceed 60 minutes.

### Conduct of business

- 2 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving a motion to provide for the consideration of any matter.
- 3 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**  
 To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate or to provide for the consideration of any matter.

### Government documents

- 4 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**  
 To move (contingent on the Senate proceeding to the consideration of government documents)—That so much of the standing orders relating to the consideration of government documents be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order in which the documents are called on by the President.

### Limitation of time

- Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**
- 5 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion that a bill be considered an urgent bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent debate taking place on the motion.
- 6 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion to specify time to be allotted to the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent the motion being debated without limitation of time and each senator speaking for the time allotted by standing orders.



- 7 To move (contingent on the chair declaring that the time allotted for the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill, has expired)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent further consideration of the bill, or the stage of the bill, without limitation of time or for a specified period.

### **Matters of urgency**

- 8 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving an amendment to the motion.
- 9 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**
- To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving an amendment to the motion.

### **Order of business**

- 10 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**
- To move (contingent on the President proceeding to the placing of business on any day)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order of business on the *Notice Paper*.

### **Questions without notice**

- 11 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**  
**Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)**  
**Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)**  
**Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)**  
**Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**
- To move (contingent on a minister at question time on any day asking that further questions be placed on notice)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion that, at question time on any day, questions may be put to ministers until 28 questions, including supplementary questions, have been asked and answered.

**Statements****12 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)****Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)****Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)****Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)****Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to make a statement to the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent that senator making that statement.

**Tabling of documents****13 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)****Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)****Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)****Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)****Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)**

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to table a document in the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving that the document be tabled.

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**TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES**

Senators Barnett, Bartlett, Bishop, Carol Brown, Chapman, Forshaw, Hutchins, Kirk, Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, Marshall, Moore, Murray, Troeth and Watson

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**CATEGORIES OF COMMITTEES****Standing Committees**

- **Legislative and General Purpose**

Community Affairs

Economics

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Environment, Communications and the Arts

Finance and Public Administration

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

- **Legislative Scrutiny**

Regulations and Ordinances

Scrutiny of Bills

- **Standing (Domestic)**
  - Appropriations and Staffing
  - House
  - Library
  - Privileges
  - Procedure
  - Publications
  - Selection of Bills
  - Senators' Interests

**Joint Committees**

- **Statutory**
  - Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
  - Australian Crime Commission
  - Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings
  - Corporations and Financial Services
  - Intelligence and Security
  - Public Accounts and Audit
  - Public Works

Details appear in the following section, with committees listed in alphabetical order.

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## COMMITTEES

**Appropriations and Staffing—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/APP\\_CTTE/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/APP_CTTE/index.htm)

**Members**

The President (*Chairman*), the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Senator Parry

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**Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/aclei\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/aclei_ctte/index.htm)

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**Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc_ctte/index.htm)

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**Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcbpp/index.htm>

**Members**

The President and the Speaker

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**Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Health and Ageing

*Members*

Senator Moore (*Chair*), Senator Humphries (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Adams, Allison, Boyce, Carol Brown, Lundy and Polley

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood, Watson

**Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/corporations\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/corporations_ctte/index.htm)

**Economics—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Treasury; Industry, Tourism and Resources

*Members*

Senators Bishop, Bushby, Campbell, Eggleston, Hurley, Joyce, Murray and Webber

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson

*Report presented*

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2007 and National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007—Interim report (*presented to the President on 11 February 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

**Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/index.htm)

(formerly *Employment, Workplace Relations and Education*; name amended 13 February 2008)

*Portfolios*

Employment and Workplace Relations; Education, Science and Training

*Members*

Senator Marshall (*Chair*), Senator Watson (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Boyce, Campbell, Fisher, Sterle, Stott Despoja and Wortley

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Heffernan, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Murray, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth and Trood

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**Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/index.htm)

(formerly *Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*; name amended 13 February 2008)

*Portfolios*

Environment and Water Resources; Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

*Members*

Senators Bartlett, Birmingham, Kemp, Lundy, McEwen, Parry, Webber and Wortley

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bernardi, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood and Watson

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**Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance and Administration; Human Services

*Members*

Senator Polley (*Chair*), Senator Fifield (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Carol Brown, Fierravanti-Wells, Forshaw, Moore, Murray and Watson

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth and Trood

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**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT\\_CTTE/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT_CTTE/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Foreign Affairs and Trade; Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

*Members*

Senators Bishop, Cormann, Forshaw, Hogg, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen and Trood

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Stott Despoja, Troeth and Watson

*Report presented*

The changing nature of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations—Interim report (*presented to the President on 19 October 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

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**House—Standing Committee***Members*

The President (*Chair*) and the Deputy President and Senator Parry

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**Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjicis/index.htm>

(formerly the *Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD*; name amended 2 December 2005 pursuant to item 39 in Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the *Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Act 2005*)

*Report presented*

Review of the re-listing of three terrorist organisations (*presented to the Deputy President on 27 September 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

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**Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/index.htm)

*Portfolios*

Attorney-General; Immigration and Citizenship

*Members*

Senators Barnett, Bartlett, Crossin, Fisher, Kirk, McLucas, Marshall and Trood

*Participating members*

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Murray, Nash, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Stott Despoja, Troeth and Watson

*Report presented*

Crimes Legislation Amendment (Child Sex Tourism Offences and Related Measures) Bill 2007 [Provisions] (*presented to the Deputy President on 10 October 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

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**Library—Standing Committee**

*Members*

The President (*Chair*), Senators Barnett and Payne

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**Privileges—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/priv\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/priv_ctte/index.htm)

*Members*

Senators Brandis, McGauran and Payne

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**Procedure—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/proc\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/proc_ctte/index.htm)

*Members*

The Deputy President (*Chair*), the President, the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Senators Bartlett and Parry

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**Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm>

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**Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc/index.htm>

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**Publications—Standing Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/publ/index.htm>

*Members*

Senator Mason

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**Regulations and Ordinances—Legislative Scrutiny Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/regord\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/regord_ctte/index.htm)

*Members*

Senators Bartlett, Cormann and Ronaldson

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**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/index.htm)

**Portfolios**

Transport and Regional Services; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**Members**

Senators Heffernan, Hutchins, Hurley, McGauran, Nash, O'Brien and Sterle

**Participating members**

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, Mason, Minchin, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ronaldson, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Watson.

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**Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Committee**

<http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/scrutiny/index.htm>

**Members**

Senators Ellison, Murray and Troeth

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**Selection of Bills—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/selectionbills\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/selectionbills_ctte/index.htm)

**Members**

The Government Whip (*Chair*), the Opposition Whip, the Australian Democrats Whip, the Nationals Whip, the Australian Greens Whip and the Family First Party Whip and Senators Adams and Ellison

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**Senators' Interests—Standing Committee**

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/interests\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/interests_ctte/index.htm)

**Members**

Senators Adams, Allison, Humphries, Johnston and Lightfoot

**Notifications of alterations of interests**

Register of senators' interests, incorporating statements of registrable interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 19 June 2007 and 7 December 2007 (*presented to the Deputy President on 11 December 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

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## SENATE APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

### **Advisory Council on Australian Archives**

Senator Faulkner (*reappointed 20 June 2005, with effect from 27 June 2005, for a period of 3 years*).

### **Council of the National Library of Australia**

Senator Trood (*appointed 13 June 2007, for a period of 3 years*).

### **Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust**

Senators Faulkner and Watson (*appointed 1 July 2005 and 10 February 1994, respectively*).

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### **HARRY EVANS**

Clerk of the Senate

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## MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION

Ministers	Representing
<b>Senator the Honourable Christopher Evans (<u>Chris</u>)</b> <i>Minister for Immigration and Citizenship</i> <i>Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Prime Minister Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Minister for Housing Minister for Sport
<b>Senator the Honourable John Faulkner</b> <i>Special Minister of State</i> <i>Cabinet Secretary</i> <i>Vice-President of the Executive Council</i>	Minister for Trade Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister for Defence Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
<b>Senator the Honourable Stephen Conroy</b> <i>Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy</i> <i>Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Treasurer Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Assistant Treasurer
<b>Senator the Honourable Kim Carr</b> <i>Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research</i>	Minister for Education Minister for Resources and Energy Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
<b>Senator the Honourable Penelope Wong (<u>Penny</u>)</b> <i>Minister for the Climate Change and Water</i>	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Minister for Social Inclusion Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Minister for the Status of Women Minister for Employment Participation Minister for Youth
<b>Senator the Honourable Joseph Ludwig (<u>Joe</u>)</b> <i>Minister for Human Services</i> <i>Manager of Government Business in the Senate</i>	Minister for Health and Ageing Attorney-General Minister for Home Affairs Minister for Ageing
<b>Senator the Honourable Nicholas Sherry (<u>Nick</u>)</b> <i>Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law</i>	Minister for Finance and Deregulation Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister for Tourism Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
<b>Parliamentary Secretaries</b>	
<b>Senator the Honourable Ursula Stephens</b> <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector</i> <i>Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion</i>	
<b>Senator the Honourable Jan McLucas</b> <i>Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing</i>	

*In those instances where Senators prefer to be known by other than their first name, the preferred name is underlined.*

## A GUIDE TO THE NOTICE PAPER

The *Notice Paper* is issued each sitting day and contains details of current business before the Senate. Its structure is based on four main types of business, as follows:

**Matters of privilege** take precedence over all other business and are listed at the beginning of the *Notice Paper* when they arise. They consist of notices of motion which the President has determined warrant such precedence and any orders relating to adjourned debates on such motions.

**Business of the Senate** has precedence over government and general business for the day on which it is listed. It includes disallowance motions, orders of the day for the presentation of committee reports, motions to refer matters to standing committees, motions for leave of absence for a senator and motions concerning the qualification of a senator.

**Government business** is business initiated by a minister including the consideration of government legislation. It takes precedence over general business except for a period of 2½ hours each week set aside on Thursdays for general business.

**General business** is all other business initiated by senators who are not ministers. It takes precedence over government business only as described above.

Within each of these categories, business consists of notices of motion and orders of the day:

**Notices of motion** are statements that senators intend to move particular motions on the days indicated. They are entered on the *Notice Paper* in the order given and may be given jointly by two or more senators. Notices of motion are usually considered before orders of the day.

**Orders of the day** are items of business which the Senate has ordered to be considered on particular days, usually arising from adjourned debates on matters (including legislation) or requirements to present committee reports.

On days other than Thursdays, the *Notice Paper* records all business of the Senate and government business items, but includes only new items of general business from the previous sitting day. On Thursdays, business relating to the consideration of government documents, committee reports and government responses to committee reports is also published.

Other sections in the *Notice Paper* are as follows:

**Orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses**—adjourned debates on motions to consider or adopt committee reports and government responses. These orders may be considered for one hour on Thursdays at the conclusion of general business. New items appear on the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

**Orders of the day relating to government documents**—adjourned debates on motions to take note of government documents. Such orders arise from consideration of the government documents presented on a particular day and include consideration of any documents not reached on the day. They are also listed for consideration for up to one hour on Thursdays during the consideration of general business. New items appear in the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

**Business for future consideration** lists any notice of motion or order of the day to be considered on a specific day in the future; for example, a committee report ordered to be presented on a specific date, or a notice of motion given for a day other than the next day of sitting.

**Bills referred to committees** lists all bills or provisions of bills currently being considered by committees.

**Questions on notice** includes the text of new questions on notice and lists the numbers of unanswered questions.

**Orders of the Senate** includes orders of short-term duration such as orders for production of documents and those relating to days of sitting for a period of sittings.

**Contingent notices of motion** are statements of intention by senators that, contingent on a specified occurrence, they may move a motion, usually to suspend standing orders. They are grouped by subject.

**Temporary chairs of committees** is a daily list of all senators appointed to take the chair in the absence of the President or Deputy President.

**Categories of committees** is a daily list, categorised by type, of Senate and joint committees. Details of each committee appear in the committee section.

**Committees** lists all of Senate and joint committees, including membership, current inquiries and reports presented on or since the previous sitting day.

**Senate appointments to statutory authorities** lists the statutory authorities on which the Senate is represented and details of representation.

**Ministerial representation** lists Senate ministers and the portfolios they represent.

### The ‘full’ Notice Paper

On the first day of the autumn and spring sittings a full *Notice Paper* is printed listing all outstanding business before the Senate, including the full text of all unresolved notices of motion and unanswered questions on notice. This edition is a complete reference to unresolved business from earlier in the session and is useful to keep. All business before the Senate is published daily in the full online version of the *Notice Paper*, available on ParlInfo and at: [www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/notice/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/notice/index.htm)

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Inquiries concerning the *Notice Paper* or business listed in it may be directed to the Senate Table Office on (02) 6277 3018.