



Senate Daily Summary Wednesday, 20 March 2013

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 9.49 pm

Legislation

[Bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend) Bill 2013 [passed by the House of Representatives on 20 March 2013] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Convergence Review and Other Measures) Bill 2013
Television Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2013
[passed by the House of Representatives on 19 March 2013] [The bills were later passed, see below] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Great Barrier Reef) Bill 2013 [private senator's bill] [introducing senator's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013 [passed by the House of Representatives on 20 March 2013] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Foreign Affairs Portfolio Miscellaneous Measures Bill 2013 [passed by the House of Representatives on 19 March 2013] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Insurance Contracts Amendment Bill 2013 [passed by the House of Representatives on 19 March 2013] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Amendment (Registration Fees) Bill 2013 [passed by the House of Representatives on 20 March 2013] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]
- ❑ Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (Registration Fees) Bill 2013 [passed by the House of Representatives on 20 March 2013] [Minister's [second reading speech](#)]

The following bill was exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings – 5 February to 21 March 2013]

- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2012 Measures No. 6) Bill 2012

The following bills were passed

- ❑ National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2013–16 Government amendments and 1 Australian Greens amendment agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]
- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Convergence Review and Other Measures) Bill 2013 and a related bill [These bills will now be assented to]

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to a [motion](#) to vary the hours of meeting and routine of business for 20 March and 21 March 2013 and to consider bills under a limitation of time.

Committees

[Scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[Committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

Report on legislation

- ❑ Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Convergence Review and Other Measures) Bill 2013 and 5 related bills—Environment and Communications Legislation Committee [\[report\]](#) [additional comments by Opposition senators were also tabled]

Other reports

- ❑ Community Affairs References Committee—Australia’s domestic response to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of Health report “Closing the gap within a generation” [\[report\]](#)
- ❑ Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—Family business in Australia [\[report\]](#)
- ❑ Environment and Communications References Committee—Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s commitment to reflecting and representing regional diversity [\[report\]](#) [a [motion](#) was moved to take note of the report]
- ❑ Human Rights Joint Committee—
 - 4th report of 2013—Examination of legislation in accordance with the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*: Bills introduced 12 to 14 March 2013 and select legislative instruments registered with the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments 17 December to 20 December 2012 [\[report\]](#)
 - 5th report of 2013—Examination of legislation in accordance with the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*—Final report: *Social Security Legislation (Fair Incentives to Work) Act 2012* [\[report\]](#)
[a [motion](#) was moved to take note of the reports]
- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—Interim report—Fresh pineapple imports, New Zealand potatoes import risk analysis and fresh ginger import risk analysis [\[report\]](#)
- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 4](#) and [4th report](#) of 2013 [contains assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]

New inquiry

The Senate referred matters relating to [457 visas, Enterprise Migration Agreements and Regional Migration Agreements](#) to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee to report by 3 June 2013.

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- ❑ Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee–21 March 2013 from 10.00 am–public meeting–Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–20 March 2013–private meeting

Notices of motion

To refer a matter to a committee

- ❑ Exposure draft of the Australian Jobs Bill 2013–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 14 May 2013–notice given by the Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations (Senator Collins)

Relating to the conduct of an inquiry

A notice of motion was given by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne) to require that the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee take evidence in Tasmania for its inquiry into Auditor-General's reports nos 26 of 2007-08 and 22 of 2012-13 in relation to the Tasmanian forest industry.

To hold a meeting when the Senate is sitting

- ❑ Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–21 March 2013–in camera hearing

To extend a reporting deadline

- ❑ Community Affairs References Committee–Impacts on health of air quality–to report by 26 June 2013

Membership

The Senate agreed that Senator Colbeck replace Senator Nash on the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for the committee's inquiry into the Auditor-General's reports nos 26 of 2007-08 and 22 of 2013-13 in relation to the Tasmanian forest industry.

Documents

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to the following orders:

- ❑ The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to table the [report of the review of Commonwealth fisheries management legislation](#)–no later than noon on 8 May 2013

- ❑ The Minister representing the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to table [information relating to the number of people and children held in immigration detention centres](#)—no later than noon on 21 March 2013

Documents tabled

- ❑ [Government documents](#)

Other business

[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—first question](#)

[Matters of public interest debate—first speaker](#)

[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motions agreed to

- ❑ [Australian peacekeepers](#)—moved by Senator Wright
- ❑ [Government response to the Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee’s report into higher education and skills training](#)—moved by Senator Back
- ❑ [Human rights in Tibet](#)—moved by Senator Hanson-Young

Motions negatived

- ❑ [Independent Snowy Scientific Committee](#)—moved by Senator Hanson-Young

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

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Online

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Contact details

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