Senate Daily Summary
Thursday, 17 March 2016

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 2.26 pm, 18 March 2016

The Senate has now completed the Autumn sittings and will commence the Budget sittings on 10 May 2016

Legislation

Bills and related documents

Bills considered

The following bills were debated

- Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2013–second reading debate commenced [first speaker]
- Social Security Amendment (Diabetes Support) Bill 2016–second reading debate commenced [first speaker]

The following bills were debated and passed

- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2015-2016 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2015-2016 [second reading – first speaker]–LDP second reading amendment negatived–bills agreed to without amendments
- Biological Control Amendment Bill 2016 [second reading – first speaker]–bill agreed to without amendments
- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 [second reading – first speaker]–1 Opposition second reading amendment agreed to–bill passed with Government and AG amendments [third reading – speaker] [the House of Representatives considered the amendments made by the Senate, and agreed to them]
- Dairy Produce Amendment (Dairy Service Levy Poll) Bill 2016 [second reading – first speaker]–LDP second reading amendment negatived–bill agreed to without amendments
- Law and Justice Legislation Amendment (Northern Territory Local Court) Bill 2016 [second reading – first speaker]–bill agreed to without amendments
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Cessation of Visa Labels) Bill 2015 [second reading – first speaker]–bill agreed to without amendments
- Territories Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and Passenger Movement Charge Amendment (Norfolk Island) Bill 2016 [second reading – first speaker]–bills agreed to without amendments
- Trade Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2016 [second reading – first speaker]–bill agreed to without amendments
Bills introduced

- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016 [passed by the House of Representatives 17 March 2016] [Minister’s second reading speech]
- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Enhanced Welfare Payment Integrity) Bill 2016 [passed by the House of Representatives 16 March 2016] [Minister’s second reading speech]
- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Interest Charge) Bill 2016 [passed by the House of Representatives 18 March 2016] [Minister’s second reading speech]

Committees

Scheduled public committee hearings
Committee reports

Estimates

Additional information received relating to estimates hearings was tabled

Reports, government responses and documents tabled

- Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity Joint Committee—Examination of the annual report for 2014-15 of the Integrity Commissioner—Additional information
- Economics References Committee—Cooperative, mutual and member-owned firms [report]
- Education and Employment References Committee—A national disgrace: The exploitation of temporary work visa holders [report]
- Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—2015-16 additional estimates [report] [a motion to take note of the report was debated]
- Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Commonwealth Indigenous Advancement Strategy tendering processes [report] [a motion to take note of the report was debated – first speaker]
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Mental health of Australian Defence Force members and veterans [report] [a motion to take note of the report was debated]
- Human Rights Joint Committee—36th report of 44th Parliament, and 2016 review of Stronger Futures measures
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Migration Amendment (Character Cancellation Consequential Provisions) Bill 2016 [report]
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—Revenge pornography—Corrigendum
- Murray-Darling Basin Plan Select Committee—Refreshing the Plan [report]
- National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee—Governance in the Indian Ocean Territories: Economic development and governance [report] [a motion to take note of the report was agreed to]
- National Disability Insurance Scheme—Implementation and administration of the National Disability Insurance Scheme—Response to report
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–Appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer [statement]
- Public Works Joint Committee–3rd report
- Publications Committee–23rd report
- Regulations and Ordinances Committee–Delegated legislation monitor no. 4 of 2016
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee–4th report and alert digest no. 4 of 2016
- Trade and Investment Growth Joint Select Committee–Inquiry into business utilisation of Australia’s free trade agreements–Response to report
- Treaties Joint Committee–159th report and 160th report

**New inquiries**

**Selection of Bills Committee**

The Senate adopted report no. 4 of 2016 of the Selection of Bills Committee and made the following references:

- Customs and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 20 June 2016
- Fair Work Amendment (Protecting Australian Workers) Bill 2016–Education and Employment Legislation Committee–to report by 10 May 2016
- Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 10 May 2016
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 12 May 2016

**Other references**

- [Fires in remote Tasmanian wilderness affecting the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area](#)–Environment and Communications References Committee–to report by 30 May 2015 [a statement was made]
- [Partial suspension of sanctions against Iran](#)–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–to report by 11 May 2016 [a statement was made]

**Membership**

The Senate agreed to vary the membership of committees

**Reporting dates extended**

The Senate extended the reporting dates for various inquiries of committees [a statement was made in respect of the Joint Strike Fighter inquiry]

**Documents**

**Delegated legislation**

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

Clerk’s documents were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
**Disallowance motions**

Notice of motion to disallow given

Senator Carr gave a notice of motion to disallow the Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Regulation 2015 [F2015L01937]

**Orders for the production of documents**

Documents tabled

- Document relating to the communications campaign within the Infrastructure Investment Program [The document was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on 29 February 2016]
- Documents relating to the indexation of school funding [The document was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on 3 March 2016]
- Document relating to the legal advice concerning the submarines tender process [The document was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on 3 March 2016]
- Document relating to the proposed changes to the Senate voting system [The document was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on 16 March 2016]

Orders with continuing effect

**Entity contracts**

A letter of advice was tabled [Lists of all grants approved are required to be tabled 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

**Ministerial statement**

The Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield) tabled a ministerial statement relating to the second anniversary of the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight MH370

**Documents**

- Delegation report [a motion to take note of the report was agreed to]
- Petitions, and petitioning documents

**Other business**

Questions without notice and issues arising during question time – first question

**Answer to question—statement by leave**

The Minister for Tourism and International Education (Senator Colbeck) made a statement clarifying the answer to a question without notice today relating to the Shenhua Watermark Coal Mine. A motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) to take note of the statement was debated and agreed to [first speaker]
Hours of meeting and routine of business—Variation

The Senate agreed to vary the hours of meeting and routine of business for Budget week.

Motions agreed to

- Historical events—Australian participation in the Battle of Pozières—Centenary—moved by Senator McEwen
- Regional Australia—Wet tropics—Yellow crazy ants—moved by Senator Lazarus [statements were made – first speaker]

Motions negatived

- Environment—Climate change—Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme—moved by Senator Urquhart [statements were made – first speaker]
- Environment—Queensland—Great Barrier Reef—moved by Senator Waters [a statement was made]
- Law and justice—Child safety—moved by Senator Lazarus [statements were made – first speaker]

Next meeting

The Senate agreed to a motion, as amended, relating the next meeting of the Senate [debate occurred – first speaker]

Proposed suspension of standing orders—Proposed variation

The Senate did not agree to a motion moved by Senator Leyonhjelm to suspend standing orders to enable debate on a motion to vary the routine of business for today [first speaker]

Statements

- The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale) made a statement, by leave, clarifying comments he made during debate on the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016; and Senator McEwen made a statement relating to the matter
- The President made a statement relating to the taking of photographs of senators in the chamber

Notice of motion

A further notice of motion given today is available in the Senate Journals
Online
The Senate Daily Summary is available at www.aph.gov.au/senate
It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the Journals of the Senate.
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Related resources
The Order of Business (or 'Senate Red') and the Dynamic Red (which updates the Order of Business throughout the sitting day) are also available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

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