



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 27 March 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 11.08pm

Proposed change in sitting hours

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer gave a [notice of motion](#) to vary the sitting hours and routine of business for 13 and 15 May 2003

Legislation

[For full text of bills and other associated documents click here](#)

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Defence Amendment (Parliamentary approval for Australian involvement in overseas conflicts) Bill 2003 [Private senators' bill]
- Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]
- Health and Ageing Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003
- Sexuality Anti-Vilification Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]
- Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2002

The following bills were considered

Second reading debate continued on the following bills

- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003
- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003

The following bills were passed

Without amendments or requests

[These bills will now be assented to]

- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2002-2003
- Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2002-2003 [The statement of Issues from the Advance to the Finance Minister was approved by the Senate as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2002]
- Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill 2002
- Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Corporations (Review Fees) Bill 2002
- Industry, Tourism and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- National Blood Authority Bill 2002
- Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Dairy) Bill 2003
- Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2002

With amendments

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002–1 Democrat amendment agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendment made by the Senate](#)]
- Copyright Amendment (Parallel Importation) Bill 2002–2 Government and 2 Democrat amendments agreed to and 1 Schedule omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)]
- Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002–7 Opposition amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives disagreed to the [amendments made by the Senate](#). The Senate agreed not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House. The bill will now be assented to.]
- Crimes Legislation Enhancement Bill 2002 [2003]–18 Government [amendments agreed to](#) and 2 items omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the bill as amended]
- Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003–2 Opposition and 1 Democrat amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)]
- Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2003–4 Democrat amendments agreed to and 5 items omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)]
- Health Insurance Amendment (Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Oncology and Other Measures) Bill 2002–4 Government amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)]
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003–1 Opposition amendment agreed to and 1 Schedule omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments made by the Senate](#)]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were considered

- Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill 2002–The Senate agreed not to further insist on certain amendments disagreed to by the House of Representatives ([see 5 February 2003](#)) and made further amendments–2 Government (1 amended by Democrats) and 3 Democrat amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [further amendments made by the Senate](#)]
- Inspector-General of Taxation Bill 2002–The Senate agreed not to insist on the amendments disagreed to by the House Representatives ([see 3 March 2003](#)) and made further amendments–3 Government amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [further amendments made by the Senate](#)]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill 2002
- Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Corporations (Review Fees) Bill 2002

See the **Committees** section for details of reports relating to legislation

Delegated legislation

[For a complete list of notices of motion to disallow \(and outcomes\) click here](#)

Notice of intention given to withdraw a notice

A notice of intention was given by Senator Stott Despoja to withdraw a notice to disallow the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 17 and made under the *Customs Act 1901*

See the Documents section for details of instruments tabled

Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings click here](#)

[For committee reports click here](#)

Estimates

Additional information tabled

Additional information relating to the 2002-03 Budget and Additional Estimates was tabled by the following committees:

- ❑ Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee
- ❑ Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Reports tabled

- ❑ Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003 and the Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Dairy) Bill 2003—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- ❑ Materiel acquisition and management in Defence—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
- ❑ Publications Committee—[7th Report](#) [report adopted]
- ❑ Senators' Interests Committee—Report 1/2003: Annual report 2002

Government responses to committee reports tabled

- ❑ Australia's role in United Nations reform—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- ❑ Review of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence annual reports 2000-01—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee

Documents tabled

- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—Document related to the committee's inquiry into the Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 [No.2] and related bills
- ❑ Legal and Constitutional References Committee—Documents related to the committee's inquiry into sexuality discrimination

Membership

The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) to committee membership

New inquiries

The Senate agreed to the following new inquiries:

- Australian Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–to report by 29 May 2003
- The circumstances surrounding the application, approval and expenditure of funding under the Dairy Regional Assistance Program for the construction of a new building and the installation of additional machinery at the Moruya Steel Profiling Plant in New South Wales in the 2001-02 financial year–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–to report by 30 June 2003

Motion defeated

A [motion](#) to refer to the Legal and Constitutional References Committee the question of the legality of the Government's deployment of troops to Iraq and related matters was defeated

Reporting date

The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:

- Terrorism Insurance Bill 2002–Economics Legislation Committee–13 May 2003

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:

- [Indigenous Australians](#)–women–moved by Senator Ridgeway
- [Medicare](#)–bulk billing–moved by Senator Evans
- Parliamentary zone–The Senate [agreed](#) to a proposal by the National Capital Authority for the design and location of pedestrian lighting in the parliamentary zone
- [Sexuality discrimination legislation](#)–Australian Capital Territory–moved by Senator Greig

Motions defeated

The Senate defeated motions without debate about:

- [Aluminium smelter](#)–Iceland–moved by Senator Brown
- [Burma](#)–human rights–moved by Senator Nettle
- [Palestine](#)–independent state–moved by Senator Brown
- [Proposed liquefied natural gas plant](#)–Northern Territory–moved by Senator Nettle

Notices of motion

For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere [click here](#)

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ Productivity Commission—Report No. 24—Economic regulation of harbour towage and related services, and Government response
- ❑ Royal Commission—Building and Construction Industry—Final report by the Royal Commissioner the Honourable TRH Cole, RFD, QC, and ministerial statement by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, 27 March 2003

No government documents were tabled

Petitions

[A petition](#) was received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Statements by the [Parliamentary Secretary](#) to the Treasurer, the [Leader of the Opposition](#) in the Senate, and Senators [Harradine](#), [Mackay](#), [Brown](#) and [Greig](#) about the consideration of notices of motion as formal motions
- ❑ [Statement](#) by the President about remarks made during Question Time on 26 March 2003. The Senate took note of the statement.
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
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