

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 10 OF 2023

7 September 2023

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Anne Urquhart (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Wendy Askew (Opposition Whip)

Senator Ross Cadell (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Pauline Hanson (Pauline Hanson's One Nation Whip)

Senator Nick McKim (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Ralph Babet

Senator the Hon. Anthony Chisholm

Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher

Senator Matt O'Sullivan

Senator David Pocock

Senator Paul Scarr

Senator Lidia Thorpe

Senator Tammy Tyrrell

Secretary: Tim Bryant
02 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 10 OF 2023

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at 6.38 pm.
2. The committee recommends that—
 - (a) the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Fairer Contracts and Grants) Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 4 March 2024 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (b) the *provisions* of the Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Education and Employment Legislation Committee **but was unable to reach agreement on a reporting date** (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral);
 - (c) contingent upon introduction in the House of Representatives, the *provisions* of the Statutory Declarations Amendment Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 18 October 2023 (see appendix 3 for a statement of reasons for referral); and
 - (d) the *provisions* of the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee **but was unable to reach agreement on a reporting date** (see appendix 4 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee recommends that the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
 - Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
 - Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Australia’s Engagement in the Pacific) Bill 2023.
4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
 - Broadcasting Services Amendment (Ban on Gambling Advertisements During Live Sport) Bill 2023
 - Criminal Code Amendment (Inciting Illegal Disruptive Activities) Bill 2023
 - Electoral Legislation Amendment (Lowering the Voting Age) Bill 2023
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Regional Forest Agreements) Bill 2020
 - Fair Work Amendment (Right to Disconnect) Bill 2023 [No. 2]
 - Freeze on Rent and Rate Increases Bill 2023
 - Legalising Cannabis Bill 2023
 - Members of Parliament (Staff) Amendment Bill 2023

- Migration Amendment (Overseas Organ Transplant Disclosure and Other Measures) Bill 2023
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Domestic Reserve) Bill 2023
- Parliamentary Workplace Support Service Bill 2023
Parliamentary Workplace Support Service (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2023
- Productivity Commission Amendment (Electricity Reporting) Bill 2023
- Protecting the Spirit of Sea Country Bill 2023
- Royal Commissions Amendment (Private Sessions) Bill 2023
- Social Security Amendment (Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment) Bill 2023.

(Anne Urquhart)

Chair

7 September 2023

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Electoral Legislation Amendment (Fairer Contracts and Grants) Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: in the public interest ahead of the next Federal Election.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

- Australian Democracy Network
- Centre for Public Integrity
- Transparency International
- Human Rights Law Centre
- AEC

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s): 12 February 2024

Possible reporting date: 4 March 2024

(signed)



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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: **Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023**

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Complex issue needing wide ranging consultation

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Multiple stakeholders

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

September - November

Possible reporting date:

27 November 2023

(signed)



Print name:

Wendy Askew

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: Significant reforms to workplace relations that need further interrogation.


Possible submissions or evidence from: unions, employer groups

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Education and Employment

Possible hearing date(s):

Possible reporting date: 1 Nov 2023

(signed)


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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill:

Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Legislation implements a number of key workplace relations policies.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Business groups, trade unions, academics, Law Council

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Education and Employment

Possible hearing date(s):

To be settled with committee chair

Possible reporting date:

↓ *November 2023*

(signed)

CA McQuilley

Print name:

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: **Statutory Declarations Amendment Bill 2023**

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Complex issue needing wide ranging consultation

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Multiple stakeholders

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

September - October

Possible reporting date:

18 October 2023

(signed)



Print name:

Wendy Askew

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill:

Statutory Declarations Amendment Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Provide stakeholders an opportunity to speak to the measures in the Bill enabling electronic and digital execution of statutory declarations.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Governance Institute of Australia

Business Council of Australia

Australian Banking Association

Law Council of Australia

Australian Lawyers Alliance

DocuSign

Adobe

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

TBC

Possible reporting date:

18 October 2023

(signed) 

Print name: _____

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: **Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023**

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Complex issue needing wide ranging consultation

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Multiple stakeholders

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

September - November

Possible reporting date:

14 November 2023

(signed)



Print name:

Wendy Askew

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill:

Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

Matter of public concern and environmental significance.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Environmental, industry and government bodies.

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Environment and Communications Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

Mid-Late September.

Possible reporting date:

27 October 2023



SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill: Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: To enable consultation with community members and experts

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Environmental organisations, community members, academics and other relevant stakeholders

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

Environment and Communications

Possible hearing date(s): TBC

Possible reporting date: 14 November 2023

(signed)



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Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

Opp 1 Cash

Selection of Bills Committee report

**Amendment to be moved to the motion that the
report be adopted**

Senator Cash to move:

At the end of the motion, add:

“and, in respect of the provisions of the Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023, the Education and Employment Legislation Committee report by 1 February 2024”.

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE—REPORT NO. 10 OF 2023—
AMENDMENT TO REPORT**

(after adoption of committee report is moved)

MINISTER (SENATOR GALLAGHER):

I move the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add: “and, in respect of the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023, the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee report on 8 November 2023.”.