

Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia.

Dear Sir/Madam.

Re: On 5 February 2009 the Senate referred the **provisions** of the following bills (“the bills”) be referred to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for inquiry and report by 10 February 2009:

[Appropriation \(Nation Building and Jobs\) Bill \(No.1\) 2008-2009](#)

[Appropriation \(Nation Building and Jobs\) Bill \(No.2\) 2008-2009](#)

[Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Amendment Bill 2009](#)

[Household Stimulus Package Bill 2009](#)

[Tax Bonus for Working Australians Bill 2009](#)

[Tax Bonus for Working Australians \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2009](#)

Considering the time factor and with the Senate most likely to vote on this package of bills next Thursday night, it is disappointing that the Federal Government hasn’t allowed enough time for these bills to be fully considered: b) the input from Australians via detailed submissions to this committee.

On reading across various Australian media websites, there is considerable debate within the Australian community and comment if we were to check out various feedback pages. It will be up to others within the Senate to either support these bills with possible amendments or vote them down.

We know what the government’s position is along with the Federal Opposition and personally, whilst there is some merit in a further stimulus; why not a smaller amount? I have been listening to the proceedings of this committee via the online link and I’m impressed with the questioning of departmental officials by the members of this committee.

As a parent and a grand-parent of a three year girl and watching her play in my lounge room, I am concerned at what is taking place down there in Canberra and what could happen if this package is supported and the possibility of the deficit worsening in years to come. Whilst I don’t support our

future generations having to pay for our mistakes, currently up here in Queensland, there's major concern amongst residents of Nth Queensland including central parts of this state re the massive flooding that is currently taking place.

It is being reported in the Courier Mail where the Queensland Premier is warning of more bad weather and the possibility of a further two cyclones and more monsoons. We know that the Queensland Premier and others will be pleased to receive funding from the government and it could be suggested that the federal government is bailing their state colleagues out of a deepening mess that they are creating.

Looking at 140 plus photographs of the major flooding; surely money should be spent not on hand-outs via one off payments but major infrastructure programs like tapping some of this massive excess of water and using the Snowy River project as an example?

We know that the government is heavily relying on advice from the Department of Treasury and we should also remember what our former federal treasurer said via a Budget Speech where future surpluses would be smaller in the years to come.

As we approach the next Federal Budget, we don't know what the government will present on Budget night and across the various Budget Papers. We know that the government's Razor Gang is meeting and from media reports in recent weeks, further savings possible across many agencies.

We hear/read via the electronic media of the concerns of those who are crying out for more assistance and; surely, the pressure should be reduced by having in place proper policies and legislation which will benefit us all? As we don't know what will be in the next Budget; could we see more packages of money thus providing further stimulus?

I would've liked to provide a more detailed submission but these bills shouldn't be supported and consideration by the federal government re a review of the GST and possibly a cut in the rate which would allow Australians to use that money elsewhere.

D.Tones.

Brisbane. Qld.