# Journals of the Senate

**No. 84**

**Tuesday, 17 March 2015**

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1 **MEETING OF SENATE**

The Senate met at 12.30 pm. The President (Senator the Honourable Stephen Parry) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

2 **DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were tabled pursuant to standing order 61(1)(b):


3 **SENATE—PHOTOGRAPHY DURING DIVISIONS—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT**

The President made a statement relating to photography in the Senate during divisions on the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014 this week.

4 **DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk pursuant to statute:

[Legislative instruments are identified by a Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) number. An explanatory statement is tabled with an instrument unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk.]

- *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005*—Radiocommunications (Charges) Amendment Determination 2015 (No. 1) [F2015L00285].
- *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*—Broadcasting Services (Primary Commercial Television Broadcasting Service) Amendment Declaration 2015 (No. 1) [F2015L00293].
- *Migration Act 1958*—Direction under section 499—Visa refusal and cancellation under s. 501 and revocation of a mandatory cancellation of a visa under s. 501CA—No. 65.
- Statement under section 33—1 July to 31 December 2014.

Radiocommunications Act 1992—
Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Temporary Community Broadcasting Licence) Determination 2015 [F2015L00286].

Telecommunications Act 1997—
Telecommunications (Section of the Telecommunications Industry – Cabling Service Operators) Determination 2015 [F2015L00291].
Telecommunications (Section of the Telecommunications Industry – Portability Service Suppliers) Determination 2015 [F2015L00292].


The following documents were tabled by the Clerk pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended:
Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 July to 31 December 2014—Statements of compliance—
Defence portfolio.
Department of Human Services.
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
Environment portfolio.
Fair Work Ombudsman.

5 COMMITTEES—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTINGS

Committees were authorised to meet during the sittings of the Senate, as follows:
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—
private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 5 pm, for the purposes of the committee’s consideration of the 2014-15 additional estimates.
public meeting on Monday, 23 March 2015, from 11.30 am, to continue its consideration of the 2014-15 additional estimates.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 3 pm, for the purposes of the committee’s inquiries into the Australian Federal Police – Oil for Food Taskforce, and a comprehensive revision of the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—public meeting on Monday, 23 March 2015, from 5.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into agricultural sector levies.
6 **HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH REFORM BILL 2014**
Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Human Services (Senator Payne)—That this bill be now read a second time.
Debate resumed.
At 2 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Seselja was speaking.

7 **QUESTIONS**
Questions without notice were answered.

*Document:* The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) tabled the following document:

Education—Higher education—Savings measures announced by the previous Government to higher education grants and student support for the period 2011-12 to 2016-17.

Further questions without notice were answered.

8 **MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS**
Senator Cameron moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Employment (Senator Abetz) and the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) to questions without notice asked by Senators Carr and Polley today relating to higher education reforms.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
Senator Di Natale moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Assistant Minister for Health (Senator Nash) to a question without notice asked by Senator Di Natale today relating to the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.
Question put and passed.

9 **NOTICES**
Senators O’Sullivan and Back: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate recognises:

(a) recent comments to the media by Australian Cattle Veterinarians Association president, Dr Enoch Bergman, in support of Australia’s live export trade;

(b) that Dr Bergman told Australian Broadcasting Corporation *Rural* on 11 February 2015 that Australia’s participation in the live trade enabled it to influence animal welfare outcomes among destination nations: ‘if Australia were to be removed from that conversation those cattle would be sourced elsewhere. Our role would be supplanted, and I think we’re well engaged to actually influence welfare outcomes where those animals land’; and

(c) that the Australian Cattle Veterinarians Association is a sub-section of the Australian Veterinary Association and reports on the welfare of sheep and cattle. *(general business notice of motion no. 652)*
Senator Siewert: To move on 19 March 2015—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the negative impacts of coal and coal seam gas mining on Australia’s environment, including prime agricultural land and water, and the wellbeing of regional communities, and

(ii) the concerning relationship between these mining activities and political corruption, particularly in New South Wales, as evidenced by the findings of the Independent Commission Against Corruption; and

(b) calls on all parties contesting the New South Wales state election to commit to a ban on coal and coal seam gas mining. (general business notice of motion no. 653)

Senators Day, Leyonhjelm and Lambie: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) condemns the deliberate restriction of land for new housing and subsequent price gouging by state and territory land management agencies; and

(b) highlights the constraints on land supply which are the principal causes of worsening housing affordability. (general business notice of motion no. 654)

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the tragic loss of life and devastating impacts of Tropical Cyclone Pam on schools, hospitals, homes, water supplies, crops, fertile lands and critical infrastructure in Vanuatu,

(ii) the initial $5 million pledged by the Government and encourages ongoing increased support and assistance as it is requested by our Pacific neighbours, and

(iii) that the President of Vanuatu, Mr Baldwin Lonsdale, has attributed the intensity of the damage wreaked by Cyclone Pam to global warming; and

(b) calls on the Government to:

(i) heed and act on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th assessment report on extreme weather events as they are intensified by global warming, and

(ii) prepare updated disaster mitigation and response plans as the impacts of global warming worsen. (general business notice of motion no. 655)

Senator Wright: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes the effects of Commonwealth funding uncertainty on the mental health sector, including staff loss, a reduction in services to clients and declining staff morale;

(b) understands that 40 per cent of mental health organisations have already experienced loss of staff due to funding uncertainty, as outlined in a survey by Mental Health Australia;

(c) notes that skilled mental health practitioners have commenced leaving rural communities to find work in urban areas due to employment uncertainty;

(d) recognises that mental health organisations will soon be required under law to give notice to staff whose jobs are no longer secure as a result of Commonwealth funding uncertainty;
(e) acknowledges the financial and mental health impacts of job insecurity for those working in the mental health sector; and

(f) calls on the Federal Government to urgently end the funding uncertainty plaguing the mental health sector and give organisations the confidence they need to plan ahead and continue to provide vital mental health services for Australians. (general business notice of motion no. 656)

Senator Rhiannon: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2015, the following documents held in relation to the WestConnex road project in New South Wales not previously provided to the Senate, including but not limited to:

(a) any agreements or Memorandum of Understanding detailing the milestones and requirements that New South Wales must meet, tied to the Commonwealth funding commitment;

(b) traffic modelling forecasts, including alternative public transport options available, and the resultant effects on inner Sydney congestion and transport connections;

(c) routes under consideration, or previously under consideration, including tunnel exit and entry points;

(d) exhaust stack chimney locations and air pollution forecasts;

(e) modelling of proposed tolls and predicted costs per trip;

(f) construction cost estimates; and

(g) any document which records or refers to the production of documents as a result of this order of this chamber. (general business notice of motion no. 657)

Senators O’Neill, Di Natale, Xenophon and Seselja: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate notes that:

(a) 12 500 Australians are diagnosed with melanoma each year, and 1 650 of those are diagnosed with advanced melanoma;

(b) advanced melanoma kills more than 1 500 Australians each year – or one death every 6 hours;

(c) melanoma is the most common cancer in young Australians aged 15 to 39, and those diagnosed with advanced melanoma have a median survival of only 8 to 9 months;

(d) melanoma is estimated to be the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in 2014 in Australian:

(i) males, after prostate and colorectal cancer, with 7 440 cases, and

(ii) females, after breast and colorectal cancer, with 5 210 cases;

(e) advanced melanoma costs hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and has a devastating personal cost to individuals and families; and

(f) in March, Australians around the country will participate in the Melanoma March community walks to raise awareness of melanoma. (general business notice of motion no. 658)
Senator Rhiannon: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) a New South Wales parliamentary inquiry into the Environment Protection Authority found that the decision to build a $57 million cruise ship terminal at White Bay in Balmain, instead of at Barangaroo was a ‘serious error’, and acknowledged the significant impact of fumes and the corresponding issues with noise and vibrations have had on the quality of life of the surrounding community,

(ii) the relocation of the cruise ship terminal to White Bay was opposed by the cruise ship industry, local councils and community groups alike, and

(iii) since the White Bay facility opened in 2013 it has received many complaints from local residents concerned about the health impacts of the air and noise pollution associated with cruise ships; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to work with state governments to:

(i) implement mandatory requirements that all new cruise ship terminals have ship to shore power,

(ii) implement the New South Wales parliamentary recommendations to install shore-to-shore power for ships when they are moored at White Bay, and for cruise ship operators to develop noise mitigation strategies, and

(iii) ensure that the maximum allowable sulphur content for all cruise ship fuels is reduced to 0.1 per cent in line with United States of America and European Union regulations. (general business notice of motion no. 659)

Senators McKenzie and Williams: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following matter be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by 12 August 2015:

The effect of market consolidation on the red meat processing sector, and in undertaking the inquiry, the committee consider:

(a) the potential for misuse of market power through buyer collusion and the resultant impact on producer returns;

(b) the impact of the red-meat processor consolidation on market competition, creation of regional monopolies and returns to farm gate;

(c) the existing selling structures and processes at saleyards, particularly pre- and post-sale weighing, as well as direct sales and online auctions, and whether they remain relevant;

(d) the regulatory environment covering livestock, livestock agents, buyers and meat processors; and

(e) any related matter.

Contingent notices of motion: Senators Lazarus and Wang each gave contingent notices of motion as follows—

No. 1—To move (contingent on the President presenting a report of the Auditor-General on any day or notifying the Senate that such a report had been presented under standing order 166)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion to take note of the report and any senator speaking to it for not more than 10 minutes, with the total time for the debate not to exceed 60 minutes.
No. 2—To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate or to provide for the consideration of any matter.

No. 3—To move (contingent on the Senate proceeding to the consideration of government documents)—That so much of the standing orders relating to the consideration of government documents be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order in which the documents are called on by the President.

No. 4—To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion that a bill be considered an urgent bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent debate taking place on the motion.

No. 5—To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion to specify time to be allotted to the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent the motion being debated without limitation of time and each senator speaking for the time allotted by standing orders.

No. 6—To move (contingent on the chair declaring that the time allotted for the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill, has expired)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent further consideration of the bill, or the stage of the bill, without limitation of time or for a specified period.

No. 7—To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a senator moving an amendment to the motion.

No. 8—To move (contingent on the President proceeding to the placing of business on any day)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order of business on the Notice Paper.

No. 9—To move (contingent on a minister at question time on any day asking that further questions be placed on notice)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion that, at question time on any day, questions may be put to ministers until 28 questions, including supplementary questions, have been asked and answered.

No. 10—To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to make a statement to the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent that senator making that statement.

No. 11—To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to table a document in the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving that the document be tabled.

10 POSTPONEMENTS

Business was postponed as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of Senator Xenophon for today, proposing a reference to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee, postponed till 24 March 2015.

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in the name of Senator Xenophon for today, proposing a reference to the Economics Legislation Committee, postponed till 18 March 2015.
General business notice of motion no. 645 standing in the name of Senator Day for today, relating to the South Australian Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission, postponed till 18 March 2015.

11 COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT
The following committee was granted an extension of time to report:

12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Senator Bushby, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to Senator Smith for 16 and 17 March 2015, for personal reasons.
Question put and passed.

13 BUSINESS SERVICES WAGE ASSESSMENT TOOL PAYMENT SCHEME BILL 2014 AND RELATED BILL—RECOMMITTAL
The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—That—
(a) the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool Payment Scheme Bill 2014 and the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool Payment Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2014 be recommitted, and that consideration of the bills in committee of the whole be made an order of the day; and
(b) the committee of the whole resume consideration of the bills in the form in which they stood immediately prior to their being negatived in committee on 24 November 2014.

Question put.
The Senate divided—
AYES, 41

Senators—
Back
Bullock
Bushby (Teller)
Cameron
Canavan
Carr
Collins
Conroy
Day
Edwards
Fawcett

Fifield
Gallacher
Ketter
Lazarus
Leypnghjelm
Lines
Lundy
Macdonald
Madigan
Marshall

Mason
McEwen
McGrath
McKenzie
McLucas
Moore
Muir
O’Neill
Parry
Peris

Polley
Reynolds
Ruston
Seselja
Singh
Sinodinos
Sterle
Wang
Williams
Xenophon

NOES, 10

Senators—
Di Natale
Hanson-Young
Ludlam

Milne
Rhiannon
Rice

Siewert (Teller)
Waters
Whish-Wilson
Wright

Question agreed to.
14 **MINING—URANIUM EXPORT INDUSTRY**

Senator Bushby, at the request of Senator O’Sullivan and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 640—that the Senate recognises:

(a) the supportive role Australia’s uranium export industry provides in global efforts to address climate change by avoiding the further production of significant quantities of greenhouse gas emissions;

(b) that, according to the Australian Academy of Sciences, 10,000 tonnes of Australian uranium exports replaces the generation of 400 million tonnes of CO2 from conventional power sources;

(c) that Australia has the largest share of uranium resources globally, with 33 per cent of the world’s reasonably assured resources;

(d) the World Nuclear Association has stated in its recent report, *The world nuclear supply chain: outlook 2030*, there could be as many as 266 new reactors around the globe by 2030; and

(e) that, given our large resources and reputation as a secure long-term supplier, Australia is well placed to capitalise on any expansion of the global nuclear power industry.

Question put and passed. All Australian Greens senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the noes.

15 **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 646—that the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the insensitive remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr Abbott) in which he called remote aboriginal communities a ‘lifestyle choice’,

(ii) the anguish that the proposed closure of remote communities is causing Aboriginal people in Western Australia, and

(iii) the importance of remote communities for cultural, social and emotional wellbeing, and the role these communities play in land management; and

(b) calls on:

(i) the Prime Minister to apologise for his remarks,

(ii) the Federal Government to reinstate the Municipal and Essential Services funding to Western Australia, and

(iii) the Barnett Government to abandon its plan to close Aboriginal communities and to instead work with those communities to deliver essential services and support.

Question put and passed.
16 DEFENCE—DEPLOYMENT OF AUSTRALIAN TROOPS

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 644—

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) the Government has committed a further 300 troops to the war in Iraq, in addition to the special forces and air force personnel already deployed,

(ii) this increase in troop numbers was announced by the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Mr Key), rather than our own Prime Minister (Mr Abbott),

(iii) neither the Australian Parliament, nor the Australian people, were consulted about the major increase in Australian soldiers in Iraq, and

(iv) the latest polling from Essential Research shows that the majority of Australians disapprove of sending more Australian soldiers to Iraq; and

(b) calls on the Australian Government to:

(i) support legislation that enables the Parliament to decide when Australian troops are deployed overseas, and

(ii) outline the support framework it has in place to support both the mental and physical health needs of returning service men and women.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 12

Di Natale
Hanson-Young
Lazarus
Ludlam
Milne
Rhiannon
Rice
Siewert (Teller)
Waters
Whish-Wilson
Wright
Xenophon

NOES, 35

Back
Bullock
Bushby
Cameron
Canavan
Carr
Conroy
Day
Edwards
Fawcett
Fifield
Gallacher
Ketter
Lines
Lundy
Macdonald
Madigan
Marshall
Mason
McEwen (Teller)
McGrath
McKenzie
McLucas
Mooore
Muir
O’Neill
Parry
Polley
Reynolds
Ruston
Seselja
Sinodinos
Sterle
Wang
Williams

Question negatived.
17 **EDUCATION—NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY—FUNDING**

Senator Carr, also on behalf of Senators Lazarus, Muir, Rhiannon, Madigan, Lambie and Wang, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 643—That the Senate calls on the Government to commit to the allocation and release of $150 million in funding for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy in 2015-16 that was included in the 2014-15 Budget.

*Statement by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

18 **LAW AND JUSTICE—TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION AND ACCESS) ACT 1979—REPORT FOR 2013-14—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT**

Senator Ludlam, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 647—That—

(a) the Senate notes that:

(i) the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act* 1979 requires that the overseeing Minister (currently the Attorney-General), as soon as practicable after 30 June each year, cause to be prepared a written report on the operation of the Act that relates to the year ending on that 30 June,

(ii) the report contains critical information on law enforcement access to Australians’ telecommunications data which is directly pertinent to the Parliament’s consideration of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention)* Bill 2014,

(iii) for the past 3 years, this report has been tabled in November or December each year, and

(iv) the Government has not yet tabled the report for the year ended 30 June 2014; and

(b) there be laid on the table by the Attorney-General, no later than noon on Thursday, 19 March 2015, the report on the operation of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act* 1979 for the year ended 30 June 2014.

*Statements by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield) and Senator Ludlam, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

19 **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—SOLAR ENERGY EXCHANGE INITIATIVE**

Senator Rhiannon, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 648—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) a group of western New South Wales councils, accounting for two-thirds of the state’s area, are working together on a solar initiative, known as the Solar Energy eXchange Initiative (the Initiative), that if adopted would result in each local government area installing about half a megawatt of photo voltaic panels at various sites in their locality,
(ii) the Initiative involves a number of distinct projects involving different combinations of solar and storage technologies to help assess what would most effectively meet the energy needs of western New South Wales,

(iii) some of the plants would be large enough to meet the electricity demand of a typical country town of 2,000 to 5,000 people, and

(iv) the number of councils supporting the Initiative has been steadily growing with 24 councils and shires now signed onto the Initiative; and

(b) urges all levels of government to acquaint themselves with the Initiative and consider how they can support this project.

Question put and passed.

20 **CHARTER OF BUDGET HONESTY AMENDMENT (INTERGENERATIONAL REPORT) BILL 2015**

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 649—

That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to provide for the intergenerational report to be prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Office, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Milne presented the bill and moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Milne moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Explanatory memorandum: Senator Milne, by leave, tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Milne in continuation.

21 **INDUSTRY—AUTOMOTIVE TRANSFORMATION SCHEME—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

Senator Xenophon, also on behalf of Senators Carr, Madigan, Muir and Wright, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 650—That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Monday, 23 March 2015:

(a) by the Minister representing the Minister for Industry and Science, any correspondence since 1 July 2014 between the Minister for Industry and Science and the Prime Minister regarding the Automotive Transformation Scheme (ATS); and

(b) by the Minister for Finance, any correspondence since 1 July 2014 between the Minister and the Prime Minister regarding the ATS.

Question put and passed.
22 ENVIRONMENT—QUEENSLAND—ABBOT POINT

Senator Waters, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 651—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has repeatedly stated that the most serious threat to the reef is climate change,

(ii) the Abbot Point coal port expansion would facilitate the export of up to 180 million tonnes of coal per year,

(iii) nine global banks, including HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Société Générale, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Citi, JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley have refused to finance the Abbot Point coal port expansion, and

(iv) the Australian Youth Climate Coalition’s Dump Your Bank campaign is helping customers make sure their savings are not used to fund the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef and the climate; and

(b) congratulates former customers of the big four Australian banks who have divested because the big four Australian banks have not ruled out investing in the Abbot Point coal port expansion which would accelerate the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef.

Statements by leave: Senator Waters and the Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 12

Senators—

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NOES, 38

Senators—

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Question negatived.
23 CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 2—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

- Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2014-2015
- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2014-2015
- Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2014-2015.

Question put and passed.

Senator Fifield, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 3—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

- Customs Amendment (Anti-dumping Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2015
- Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Amendment Bill 2015.

Question put and passed.

Senator Fifield, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 4—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2015, allowing it to be considered during this period of sittings.

Question put and passed.

Senator Fifield, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 5—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

- Australian River Co. Limited Bill 2015
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Miscellaneous Matters) Bill 2015
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment (Miscellaneous Matters) Bill 2015
- Succession to the Crown Bill 2015.

Question put and passed.

24 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

The President informed the Senate that, at 8.30 am today, Senator Moore and Senator Siewert had each submitted a letter in accordance with standing order 75 proposing a matter of public importance for discussion. The question of which proposal would be submitted to the Senate was determined by lot.

As a result, the President informed the Senate that Senator Moore had proposed that the following matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion:

The impact of the Abbott Government’s decision to cut half a billion dollars from Indigenous programs in its first Budget.

The proposal was supported by four senators and the matter was discussed.
25 DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION
The documents tabled earlier today (see entry no. 2) were called on but no motion was moved.

26 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES—TABLING AND CONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 62(4)
Senator O’Sullivan, on behalf of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, tabled the following report:


Pursuant to order, Senator Bilyk, at the request of the Chair of the Education and Employment References Committee (Senator Lines), tabled the following report and documents:


Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Bilyk.
Senator Bilyk moved—That the Senate take note of the report.
Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Bilyk in continuation.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator Scullion) tabled the following document:


Senator Bilyk moved—That the Senate take note of the document.
Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Bilyk in continuation.

Order of the day no. 1 relating to committee reports and government responses was called on but no motion was moved.

27 INDUSTRY—AUTOMOTIVE TRANSFORMATION SCHEME—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—DOCUMENT
The Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator Scullion) tabled the following document:

Industry—Automotive Transformation Scheme—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), dated 17 March 2015, responding to the order of the Senate agreed to earlier today (see entry no. 21) and raising a public interest immunity claim.
28 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Williams) informed the Senate that the President had received a letter requesting changes in the membership of committees.
The Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator Scullion), by leave, moved—That senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—
Appointed—
Substitute member: Senator Dastyari to replace Senator Singh on 19 March 2015
Participating member: Senator Singh

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—
Appointed—
Substitute member: Senator Lines to replace Senator Collins for the committee’s inquiries into the provisions of the Migration Amendment (Maintaining the Good Order of Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2015, and the provisions of the Migration Amendment (Strengthening Biometrics Integrity) Bill 2015
Participating member: Senator Collins.

Question put and passed.

29 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2014-2015
APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2014-2015
APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2014-2015
Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:

Message no. 322, dated 16 March 2015—A Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for expenditure in relation to the Parliamentary Departments, and for related purposes.
Message no. 323, dated 16 March 2015—A Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government, and for related purposes.
Message no. 324, dated 16 March 2015—A Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator Scullion) moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.
Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Scullion moved—That these bills be now read a second time.
On the motion of Senator Scullion the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.
30 **LEGISLATION COMMITTEES—REPORTS—ANNUAL REPORTS**

Pursuant to order, Senator O’Sullivan, at the request of the chairs of the respective committees, tabled the following reports:

Reports on annual reports referred to legislation committees—No. 1 of 2015, dated March 2015—
  - Community Affairs Legislation Committee.
  - Economics Legislation Committee.
  - Education and Employment Legislation Committee.
  - Environment and Communications Legislation Committee.
  - Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee.
  - Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee.
  - Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee.
  - Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee.

Reports ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator O’Sullivan.

31 **RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—REPORT—BIOSECURITY BILL 2014 AND RELATED BILLS**

Pursuant to order, Senator O’Sullivan, at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan), tabled the following report and documents:


Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator O’Sullivan.

32 **LEGISLATION COMMITTEES—REPORTS—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15**

Pursuant to order, Senator O’Sullivan, at the request of the chairs of the respective committees, tabled the following reports, dated March 2015, and documents:

Additional estimates 2014-15—
  - Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Report.
  - Economics Legislation Committee—Report, Hansard record of proceedings and documents presented to the committee.
  - Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Report, Hansard record of proceedings, documents presented to the committee and additional information.
  - Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—Report, Hansard record of proceedings and documents presented to the committee.
  - Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Report, Hansard record of proceedings, documents presented to the committee and additional information.

Reports ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator O’Sullivan.
33 **HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH REFORM BILL 2014**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Human Services (Senator Payne)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 30**

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**NOES, 34**

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Question negatived.

34 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT**

The Assistant Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of the government business order of the day relating to the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2014-2015 and related bills.

Question put and passed.

35 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2014-2015**

**APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2014-2015**

**APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2014-2015**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator Scullion)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2014-2015 to which amendments were circulated in the Senate.
In the committee

Bill taken as a whole by leave.

Senator Leyonhjelm moved the following amendments together by leave:

Schedule 2, page 11 (table), omit the table, substitute:

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Total | 240,539 |

Schedule 2, page 13 (table), omit the table, substitute:

**SUMMARY**

Summary of Appropriations (bold figures)—2014-2015

Budget and Supplementary Appropriation (italic figures)—2014-2015

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Schedule 2, page 41 (table), omit the table.
Schedule 2, page 42 (table), omit the table.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put and negatived.

Question—That the bill stand as printed—divided, at the request of Senator Leyonhjelm, in respect of Clause 14 and Schedule 1.

Clause 14 and Schedule 1 agreed to.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Dastyari) resumed the chair and the Temporary Chair of Committees reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Assistant Minister for Health (Senator Nash) the report from the committee was adopted and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2014-2015, Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2014-2015 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2014-2015 read a third time.

36 Adjournment

The Assistant Minister for Health (Senator Nash) moved—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 8.12 pm till Wednesday, 18 March 2015 at 9.30 am.
37 ATTENDANCE
   Present, all senators except Senators Cash*, Ryan and Smith* (*on leave).

ROSEMARY LAING
Clerk of the Senate