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1 MEETING OF SENATE
The Senate met at 9.30 am. 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):

Summary report, December 2015.

Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of detention arrangements—Personal identifiers 1002173, 1002181, 1002208, 1002209, 1002221, 1002236, 1002249, 1002273, 1002283, 1002292, 1002301, 1002328, 1002334, 1002353, 1002356, 1002364, 1002376, 1002397, 1002410, 1002417, 1002452, 1002466, 1002516, 1002519, 1002561, 1002602, 1002605, 1002672, 1002673, 1002730, 1002760, 1002775, 1002856, 1002915, 1002969, 1002974, 1003046, 1003102, 1003156, 1003171, 1003172, 1003187, 1003189, 1003197, 1003211, 1003213, 1003304, 1003313, 1003416 and 1003453—Commonwealth Ombudsman’s reports, dated 2 March 2016.
Government response to Ombudsman’s reports, dated 1 March 2016.

Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997—Quarterly report on the maximum movement limit for Sydney Airport for the period 1 October to 31 December 2015.

Treaty—Bilateral—Treaty on Extradition Between Australia and the People’s Republic of China (Sydney, 6 September 2007)—Text, together with national interest analysis.

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

Migration Act 1958—

Statements under section 33—1 July to 31 December 2015 [1].
Statements under section 46A—1 July to 31 December 2015 [48].
Statements under section 48B—1 July to 31 December 2015 [3].
Statements under section 91L—1 July to 31 December 2015 [1].
Statements under section 91Q—1 July to 31 December 2015 [2].
Statements under section 195A—1 July to 31 December 2015 [90].
Statements under section 197AB—1 July to 31 December 2015 [31].
Statements under section 198AE—1 July to 31 December 2015 [4].
Statements under section 351—1 July to 31 December 2015 [102].
Statements under section 417—1 July to 31 December 2015 [16].

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

Entity contracts for 2015—Letter of advice pursuant to the order of the Senate of 20 June 2001, as amended—Department of Veterans’ Affairs.
Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 July to 31 December 2015—Statements of compliance pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended—

Communications portfolio.
Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

3 COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING
A committee was authorised to meet during the sitting of the Senate, as follows:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) on Thursday, 3 March 2016, from 3.15 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into the role of development partnerships in agriculture and agribusiness in promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

4 ORDER OF BUSINESS—PROPOSED REARRANGEMENT

Leave refused: The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) sought leave to move a motion relating to the order of government business for today. An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Proposed suspension of standing orders: Senator Wong, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent her moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate, namely a motion to give precedence to government business order of the day no. 5 (Business Services Wage Assessment Tool Payment Scheme Amendment Bill 2016). Debate ensued.

Closure: The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 38

Abetz
Back
Bernardi
Bushby (Teller)
Canavan
Cormann
Di Natale
Edwards
Fawcett
Ferravanti-Wells
Fifield
Hanson-Young
Heffernan
Johnston
Lindgren
Ludlam
Macdonald
McGrath
McKenzie

Nash
O'Sullivan
Parry
Payne
Reynolds
Rhiannon
Rice
Ruston
Ryan

Seselja
Siewert
Simms
Sinodinos
Smith
Waters
Williams

Sesselja
Scullion

NOES, 26

Bullock
Cameron
Collins
Dastyari
Day
Gallacher
Gallagher

Ketter
Lambie
Lazarus
Leyonhjelm
Lines
Ludwig
Madigan

Marshall
McAllister
McEwen (Teller)
Moore
Muir
O’Neill

Polley
Singh
Sterle
Urquhart
Wang
Wong

Question agreed to.
Main question put.
The Senate divided—

**AYES, 26**

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Question negatived.

5 **COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2016**

Order of the day read for the further consideration of the motion of the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann)—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time (see entry no. 32, 29 February 2016).

Debate resumed on the motion—That this bill may proceed without formalities—and on the amendment moved by Senator Collins:

At the end of the motion, add “but may not be further proceeded with until 12 May 2016”.

Documents: Senator Cormann tabled the following documents:

- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016—
  Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Conduct of the 2013 election and matters related thereto—Submission from the Australian Labor Party National Secretary (Mr Wright), dated 24 April 2014 [copy].

Debate continued.

Closure: The Attorney-General (Senator Brandis) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.
The Senate divided—

**AYES, 40**

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Question agreed to.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 30**

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Question negativated.

Question—That this bill may proceed without formalities—

**Closure**: Senator Brandis moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 40

Senators—

Abetz  Di Natale  Macdonald  Rice
Back  Edwards  McGrath  Ruston
Bernardi  Fawcett (Teller)  McKenzie  Ryan
Birmingham  Fierravanti-Wells  McKim  Scullion
Brandis  Fifield  Nash  Siwert
Bushby  Hanson-Young  O’Sullivan  Simms
Canavan  Heffernan  Parry  Smith
Cash  Johnston  Payne  Waters
Colbeck  Lindgren  Reynolds  Whish-Wilson
Cormann  Ludlam  Rhiannon  Williams

NOES, 30

Senators—

Brown  Gallagher  Marshall  Peris
Bullock  Ketter  McAllister  Polley
Cameron  Lambie  McEwen  Singh
Collins  Lazarus  McLucas  Sterle
Conroy  Leyonhjelm  Moore  Urquhart (Teller)
Dastyari  Lines  Muir  Wang
Day  Ludwig  O’Neill  Wong
Gallacher  Madigan

Question agreed to.

Main question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 40

Senators—

Abetz  Di Natale  Macdonald  Rice
Back  Edwards  McGrath  Ruston
Bernardi  Fawcett (Teller)  McKenzie  Ryan
Birmingham  Fierravanti-Wells  McKim  Scullion
Brandis  Fifield  Nash  Siwert
Bushby  Hanson-Young  O’Sullivan  Simms
Canavan  Heffernan  Parry  Smith
Cash  Johnston  Payne  Waters
Colbeck  Lindgren  Reynolds  Whish-Wilson
Cormann  Ludlam  Rhiannon  Williams

NOES, 30

Senators—

Brown  Gallagher  Marshall  Peris
Bullock  Ketter  McAllister  Polley
Cameron  Lambie  McEwen  Singh
Collins  Lazarus  McLucas  Sterle
Conroy  Leyonhjelm  Moore  Urquhart (Teller)
Dastyari  Lines  Muir  Wang
Day  Ludwig  O’Neill  Wong
Gallacher  Madigan

Question agreed to.

Question—That this bill be now read a first time—put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 40

Senators—

Abetz  Di Natale  Macdonald  Rice  
Back    Edwards    McGrath   Ruston  
Bernardi  Fawcett (Teller)  McKenzie  Ryan  
Birmingham  Fierravanti-Wells  McKim  Scullion  
Brandis  Fifield  Nash  Siewert  
Bushby  Hanson-Young  O’Sullivan  Simms  
Canavan  Heffernan  Parry  Smith  
Cash    Johnston  Payne  Waters  
Colbeck  Lindgren  Reynolds  Whish-Wilson  
Cormann  Ludlam  Rhiannon  Williams

NOES, 30

Senators—

Brown  Gallagher  Marshall  Peris  
Bullock  Ketter  McAllister  Polley  
Cameron  Lambie  McEwen  Singh  
Collins  Lazarus  McLucas  Sterle  
Conroy  Leyonhjelm  Moore  Urquhart (Teller)  
Dastyari  Lines  Muir  Wang  
Day    Ludwig  O’Neill  Wong  
Gallacher  Madigan

Question agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Leave refused: Senator Brandis sought leave to move a motion to exempt the bill from the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111.

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Suspension of standing orders: Senator Brandis, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving a motion to provide for the consideration of a matter, namely a motion to provide that a motion to exempt the bill from the bills cut-off order may be moved immediately and determined without amendment or debate.

Closure: Senator Brandis moved—that the question be now put.

Question—that the question be now put—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 40

Senators—

Abetz  Di Natale  Macdonald  Rice  
Back    Edwards    McGrath   Ruston  
Bernardi  Fawcett (Teller)  McKenzie  Ryan  
Birmingham  Fierravanti-Wells  McKim  Scullion  
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Canavan  Heffernan  Parry  Smith  
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Question agreed to.

Question—That the motion to suspend standing orders be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

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Question agreed to.

Senator Brandis moved—That a motion to exempt these bills from the bills cut-off order may be moved immediately and determined without amendment or debate.

Closure: Senator Brandis moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.
The Senate divided—

**AYES, 39**

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**Question agreed to.**

Question—That a motion to exempt these bills from the bills cut-off order may be moved immediately and determined without amendment or debate—put.

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 38**

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**Question agreed to.**
Consideration of legislation: Senator Brandis moved—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to this bill, allowing it to be considered during this period of sittings. (statement of reasons for introduction and passage of the bill in the 2016 autumn sittings tabled on 29 February 2016 (see entry no. 11, 29 February 2016)).

Closure: Senator Brandis moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 37

Senators—

Abetz  Edwards  McGrath  Ruston
Back  Fawcett (Teller)  McKenzie  Ryan
Bernardi  Fierravanti-Wells  McKim  Scullion
Brandis  Fifield  Nash  Siewert
Bushby  Hanson-Young  O’Sullivan  Simms
Canavan  Heffernan  Parry  Smith
Cash  Lindgren  Reynolds  Waters
Colbeck  Ludlam  Rhiannon  Whish-Wilson
Cormann  Macdonald  Rice  Williams
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NOES, 27

Senators—

Bullock  Ketter  McAllister  Polley
Cameron  Lambie  McEwen  Singh
Collins  Lazarus  McLucas  Sterle
Conroy  Leyonhjelm  Moore  Urquhart (Teller)
Dastyari  Lines  Muir  Wang
Day  Ludwig  O’Neill  Wong
Gallacher  Madigan  Peris

Question agreed to.

Question—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to this bill—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 37

Senators—

Abetz  Edwards  McGrath  Ruston
Back  Fawcett (Teller)  McKenzie  Ryan
Bernardi  Fierravanti-Wells  McKim  Scullion
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Canavan  Heffernan  Parry  Smith
Cash  Lindgren  Reynolds  Waters
Colbeck  Ludlam  Rhiannon  Whish-Wilson
Cormann  Macdonald  Rice  Williams
Di Natale
Question agreed to.

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

Explanatory memorandum: Senator Brandis tabled a revised explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

Leave refused: Senator Brandis sought leave to incorporate the second reading speech in Hansard.

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Debate ensued.

At 12.45 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Collins was speaking.

6 Senators’ Statements

Senators made statements.

At 2 pm—

7 Questions

A question without notice was answered.

Distinguished visitor: The President welcomed the Honourable Donald (Don) Harwin MLC, the President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, and, with the concurrence of honourable senators, invited him to take a seat on the floor of the chamber.

Further questions without notice were answered.

8 Official Travel—Question to President

Senator Conroy, by leave, asked a question of the President relating to official overseas travel by the President.

The President made a statement in response to the question.
9 QUESTION ON NOTICE—ANSWER AND EXPLANATION

Senator Brown, pursuant to standing order 74, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield) for an explanation of an answer not being provided to question on notice no. 2903 (notice given 13 January 2016) relating to proposed changes to parental leave pay.

Senator Fifield indicated that an answer would be provided.

Senator Brown moved—that the Senate take note of the minister’s failure to provide either an answer or an explanation.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

10 MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS

Senator Cameron moved—that the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) and the Attorney-General (Senator Brandis) to questions without notice asked by Senators Dastyari and Cameron today relating to tax policy.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Senator Whish-Wilson moved—that the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) to a question without notice asked by Senator Whish-Wilson today relating to defence spending.

Question put and passed.

11 NOTICES

Senators Lindgren and Reynolds: To move on the next day of sitting—that the Senate—

(a) notes that Vietnam Veterans Day:

(i) is celebrated on 18 August every year,

(ii) commemorates the service and sacrifice given by almost 60 000 Australians who served in the Vietnam War, including the 521 who were killed and the 3 000 wounded, and

(iii) was, until 1987, known as Long Tan Day, which commemorated the service of 108 personnel of D Company 6RAR, who on 18 August 1966, with limited supplies and in torrential rain, successfully fought off 2 000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops near the village of Long Tan;

(b) reiterates its sincere appreciation for the service of all veterans of the Vietnam War; and

(c) expresses its regret that many veterans of the Vietnam War did not receive appropriate recognition of their service upon their return to Australia. (general business notice of motion no. 1064)
Senator Conroy: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee meet on Thursday, 17 March 2016 between 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm to further consider the 2015-16 additional estimates and examine the Department of Defence, and, in particular, the implications for the department of the 2016 Defence White Paper, and that the Minister for Defence appear before the committee to answer questions for that time. (general business notice of motion no. 1065)

Senators Xenophon and McEwen: To move on the next day of sitting—That—

(a) the Senate notes that:

(i) on 17 November 2014 the Senate agreed to an order for the production of documents directed at the Minister for Defence for ‘any documents produced by Macroeconomics.com.au Pty Ltd as a result of tender reference DMOCIP/RFT 0315/2012, including economic modelling and other examination of the potential economic impact of the SEA1000 submarine project on the Australian economy, among other subjects’;

(ii) on 23 February 2016 the Minister for Defence rose in the Senate and made a ‘Cabinet-in-Confidence’ related public interest immunity claim with respect to the documents ordered, and

(iii) on 16 July 1975 the Senate laid out by resolution its position with respect to public interest immunity claims – where paragraph 4 of that resolution makes it clear that, while the Senate may permit claims of public interest immunity to be advanced, it reserves the right to determine whether any particular claim will be accepted; and

(b) there be laid on the table by the Minister for Defence, no later than 15 March 2016, the independent legal advice which grounds the Minister’s public interest immunity claim made in the Senate on 23 February 2016 in relation to the Senate resolution agreed to on 17 November 2014. (general business notice of motion no. 1066)

Senator Muir: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the Social Security Act 1991, and for related purposes. Social Security Amendment (Diabetes Support) Bill 2016. (general business notice of motion no. 1067)

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

(a) notes that Ruah Community Services has coordinated Perth’s third Registry Week, held between 8 and 19 February 2016, with teams of trained volunteers surveying rough-sleeping homeless people, with the aim of providing the sector a current snapshot of who is homeless in these areas and what their needs are;

(b) commends the City of Perth, the City of Vincent, the Town of Victoria Park, the City of Kwinana, the City of Rockingham, the City of Joondalup and the City of Wanneroo for their participation in the survey; and

(c) condemns the Abbott-Turnbull Government for its inaction on homelessness and affordable housing. (general business notice of motion no. 1068)

The Minister for Women (Senator Cash) and Senators Moore and Waters: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) 8 March is International Women’s Day (IWD), and that the theme for IWD 2016 is ‘Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality’,
(ii) International Women’s Day is a time to celebrate acts of courage and determination by women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities to achieve gender equality, and

(iii) 2016 marks 40 years since Australia appointed its first Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Women’s Affairs;

(b) acknowledges:

(i) the work that UN Women, the United Nations (UN) organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, undertakes to improve the conditions of women, both domestically and internationally,

(ii) that, despite the many rights and privileges Australian women enjoy, there remain challenges that we must strive to overcome, and

(iii) that all women have the right to be safe and live without fear of violence, and women’s safety must therefore remain at the forefront of Australia’s national consciousness; and

(c) recognises that:

(i) in Australia, violence against women is still far too common, with Australian Bureau of Statistics data revealing that one in four women has experienced violence at the hands of a current or former partner, and

(ii) Australians have an obligation to speak out and protect the human rights of women, both in Australia and overseas. (general business notice of motion no. 1069)

Senator Collins: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Special Minister of State, no later than 2 pm on Thursday, 3 March 2016, documents recording the agreement between the Government and the Australian Greens relating to changes to Senate voting. (general business notice of motion no. 1070)

Senators Madigan, Leyonhjelm, Day, Muir, Lambie, Wang and Xenophon and the Leader of the Glenn Lazarus Team (Senator Lazarus): To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Sport (Senator Fiona Nash), no later than 4 pm on Friday, 11 March 2016, the following documents relating to the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) and the National Anti-Doping Framework:

(a) the final report by ASADA investigator, Mr Aaron Walker, on its investigation into the Essendon Football Club’s player supplements program during the 2012 AFL season (Operation Cobia), dated 4 March 2014;

(b) the independent review of Operation Cobia conducted by former Federal Court judge, Garry Downes;

(c) the report of the independent review of ASADA commissioned by the former Minister for Sport (Ms Ellis); and

(d) the decision of the AFL Anti-Doping Tribunal signed by the chairman, Mr David Jones, and members, Mr John Nixon and Mr Wayne Henwood, dated 31 March 2015 which cleared 34 Essendon footballers who played for the club during the 2012 AFL season of an alleged violation of the 1 January 2012 AFL Anti-Doping Code. (general business notice of motion no. 1071)
Senator Dastyari: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham), the Minister for Finance and the Minister representing the Treasurer (Senator Cormann), no later than 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 15 March 2016, all documents prepared since 15 September 2015, relating to the indexation of total school funding by the consumer price index, with allowances for changes in enrolments from the 2018 school year onwards, as referred to in the measure contained in the 2014-15 Budget ‘Students First’—indexation of school funding from 2018. (general business notice of motion no. 1072)

The Minister for Vocational Education and Skills (Senator Ryan): To move on the next day of sitting—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:
- Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Increasing Consumer Choice) Bill 2016
- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2015-2016
- Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2015-2016
- Tax Laws Amendment (Norfolk Island CGT Exemption) Bill 2016.

Document: Senator Ryan tabled the following document:
Consideration of legislation—Statement of reasons for introduction and passage of Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2015-2016 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2015-2016 in the 2016 autumn sittings. (statement of reasons for introduction and passage of the remaining bills in the 2016 autumn sittings tabled on 29 February 2016 (see entry no. 11, 29 February 2016))

12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Senator McEwen, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to Senator Bilyk for today, for personal reasons.
Question put and passed.
Senator Madigan, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to Senator Xenophon for today, for personal reasons.
Question put and passed.

13 POSTPONEMENT
Senator Waters, by leave, moved—That business of the Senate notice of motion no. 3 standing in her name for today, proposing a reference to the Environment and Communications References Committee, be postponed till 15 March 2016.
Question put and passed.

14 CUSTOMS (ANTI-DUMPING REVIEW PANEL FEE) INSTRUMENT—DISALLOWANCE
Senator Carr, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1—That the Customs (Anti-Dumping Review Panel Fee) Instrument 2015, made under subsections 269ZZE(3) and 269ZZQ(2) of the Customs Act 1901, be disallowed [F2015L01735].
Question put and passed.
15 ECONOMICS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—VARIATION OF REFERENCE

Senator Williams, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2—that the following additional matters be referred to the Economics References Committee as part of its inquiry into the implications of financial advice reforms:

(a) the need for further reform and improved oversight of the life insurance industry;
(b) whether entities are engaging in unethical practices to avoid meeting claims;
(c) whether a life insurance industry code of conduct is required;
(d) the role of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in reform and oversight of the industry; and
(e) any related matters.

Question put and passed.

16 REGULATORY POWERS (STANDARDISATION REFORM) BILL 2016

The Minister for Vocational Education and Skills (Senator Ryan), at the request of the Attorney-General (Senator Brandis) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 3—that the following bill be introduced:


Question put and passed.

Senator Ryan 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 Ryan moved—that this bill be now read a second time.

Explanatory memorandum: Senator Ryan tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

Consideration of legislation: Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the first day in the next period of sittings, 10 May 2016.

17 MIGRATION AMENDMENT (FREE THE CHILDREN) BILL 2016

Senator Hanson-Young, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 911—that the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the Migration Act 1958, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Hanson-Young 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 Hanson-Yong moved—that this bill be now read a second time.

Explanatory memorandum: Senator Hanson-Yong, by leave, tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Hanson-Yong in continuation.

18 WOMEN—INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
Senator Moore, also on behalf of Senators Gallagher and Waters, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1058—that the Senate—
(a) notes that International Women’s Day will be observed on 8 March 2016;
(b) recognises that the day has its origins in the labour movement, and that 8 March was the date of the New York garment workers’ strike of 1908, in which women called for an end to sweatshops and child labour;
(c) acknowledges that International Women’s Day is a day to seek the need for further progress in advancing the political and economic welfare of women at home and across the world;
(d) recognises that:
(i) violence against women and their children is preventable, and that gender inequality is the core of the problem and the heart of the solution,
(ii) gender parity is linked to economic prosperity, and
(iii) increasing the numbers of women filling positions of leadership in Australian workplaces is a key part of addressing equal pay; and
(e) in marking International Women’s Day, recommits to promoting gender equality, and to advancing the political and economic welfare of women, domestically and internationally.

Question put and passed.

19 SENATE—ELECTORAL LAW CHANGES—COMMUNICATIONS AND MINUTES—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS
Senator McEwen, at the request of Senator Collins and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1060—that there be laid on the table by the Minister for Finance and the Special Minister of State, no later than 9.30 am on Thursday, 3 March 2016:
(a) documents recording all communications with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) by:
(i) the Minister for Finance,
(ii) the Acting Special Minister of State,
(iii) the Special Minister of State, and
(iv) the Department of Finance;
relating to proposed changes to the Senate voting system, including the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016, since 1 September 2015; and
(b) the minutes of all ‘round table’ meetings that have taken place in which the AEC participated.

Question put and passed.

20 **COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (POLITICAL DONATIONS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2016**

Senator Rhiannon, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1062—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

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

________

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

________

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

21 **ENVIRONMENT—PROTECTION OF SHARK SPECIES**

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1063—That the Senate—

(a) recognises that:

(i) sharks play an important role as apex predators in marine ecosystems, and

(ii) world shark populations are falling by between 63 to 273 million per year due to fisheries overexploitation;

(b) notes that the Australian Government has entered reservations against five shark species (big-eyed, pelagic and common thresher sharks, and scalloped and great hammerheads) under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, removing those shark species from the full protection otherwise provided by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the Act); and

(c) calls on the Australian Government to remove reservations for those five shark species, and to provide them full protection under the Act, by continuing to list Appendices I and II species on the Convention on Migratory Species as ‘migratory species’ under the Act.

Statement by leave: The Minister for Vocational Education and Skills (Senator Ryan), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 28

Senators—

Brown
Gallagher
McAllister
Rice

Bullock
Hanson-Young
McEwen (Teller)
Siewert

Cameron
Ketter
McKim
Simms

Carr
Lines
McLucas
Singh

Collins
Ludlam
O’Neill
Urquhart

Dastyari
Ludwig
Peris
Waters

Di Natale
Marshall
Rhiannon
Whish-Wilson

NOES, 29

Senators—

Abetz
Day
Lazarus
Parry

Back
Edwards
Lindgren
Payne

Bernardi
Fawcett
Macdonald
Reynolds

Birmingham
Ferravanti-Wells
McGrath
Ryan

Bushby (Teller)
Fifield
McKenzie
Seselja

Canavan
Heffernan
Nash
Smith

Cash
Johnston
O’Sullivan
Williams

Colbeck

Question negatived.

22 HISTORICAL EVENTS—HOWARD GOVERNMENT—20TH ANNIVERSARY

Senator McEwen, at the request of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1059—That the Senate—

(a) notes that 2 March 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the election of the Howard Government in 1996;

(b) recalls the record of the Howard Government, including:

(i) dogs on the waterfront,

(ii) the false claim that children of asylum seekers had been thrown overboard,

(iii) committing Australia to the war in Iraq on a false premise,

(iv) refusing to sign the Kyoto protocol,

(v) regional rorts,

(vi) wheat for weapons,

(vii) the absence of economic reform,

(viii) failing to support the transition of Australia to a republic,

(ix) refusing to say sorry to Indigenous Australians for past wrongs,

(x) its 10 point plan to amend native title legislation following the Wik decision,

(xi) spending over $1 billion on government advertising,

(xii) WorkChoices, and

(xiii) the erosion of decent standards in our public affairs; and

(c) calls on all Australians not to forget the legacy of the Howard Government and its contribution to public policy in this country.

Statement by leave: The Minister for Vocational Education and Skills (Senator Ryan), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 29

Senators—

Brown Hanson-Young McEwen (Teller) Rice
Bullock Ketter McKim Siewert
Cameron Lines McLucas Simms
Carr Ludlam Moore Singh
Collins Ludwig O’Neill Urquhart
Dastyari Marshall Peris Waters
Di Natale McAllister Rhiannon Whish-Wilson
Gallagher

NOES, 30

Senators—

Abetz Day Lindgren Parry
Back Edwards Macdonald Payne
Bernardi Fawcett Madigan Reynolds
Birmingham Fierravanti-Wells McGrath Ryan
Bushby (Teller) Fifield McKenzie Seselja
Canavan Heffernan Nash Smith
Cash Johnston O’Sullivan Williams
Colbeck Lazarus

Question negatived.

23 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—ISRAEL

Motion determined as not formal: Senator Ludlam, also on behalf of Senator Rhiannon, requested that general business notice of motion no. 1061 standing in their names for today, relating to Israel, be taken as formal.

An objection was raised and the motion was not proceeded with as a formal motion.

Statements by leave: Senator Ludlam and the Minister for Vocational Education and Skills (Senator Ryan), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

24 URGENCY MOTION—POLITICS—POLITICAL DONATIONS REFORM

The President informed the Senate that, at 8.30 am today, two senators each submitted letters in accordance with standing order 75, Senator Moore proposing a matter of urgency for debate and Senator Day 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 today she intended to move—that, in the opinion of the Senate, the following is a matter of urgency:

The need to reform Australia’s political donation system by lowering the disclosure threshold, banning foreign donations, restricting anonymous donations and preventing donation splitting to avoid disclosure.

The proposal was supported by four senators.
Senator Cameron, at the request of Senator Moore, moved the motion.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

25 DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION

The following documents tabled earlier today (see entry no. 2) were considered:


Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of detention arrangements—Personal identifiers 1002173, 1002181, 1002208, 1002209, 1002221, 1002236, 1002249, 1002273, 1002283, 1002292, 1002301, 1002328, 1002334, 1002353, 1002356, 1002364, 1002397, 1002398, 1002410, 1002417, 1002452, 1002466, 1002516, 1002519, 1002561, 1002602, 1002605, 1002672, 1002673, 1002730, 1002760, 1002775, 1002856, 1002915, 1002969, 1002974, 1002984, 1003046, 1003102, 1003156, 1003171, 1003172, 1003187, 1003189, 1003197, 1003211, 1003213, 1003304, 1003313, 1003416 and 1003453—Government response to Ombudsman’s reports. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Lines. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Lines in continuation.


Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997—Quarterly report on the maximum movement limit for Sydney Airport for the period 1 October to 31 December 2015. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Cameron and debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator McAllister in continuation.

26 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES—TABLING AND CONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 62(4)

Pursuant to order, Senator Fawcett, 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 2016, dated March 2016—
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 Fawcett.
Senator Fawcett, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Williams), tabled the following document:

Regulations and Ordinances—Standing Committee—Delegated legislation monitor no. 3 of 2016, dated 2 March 2016.

Document ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Fawcett.

Pursuant to order, Senator Fawcett, at the request of the Chair of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee (Senator Bernardi), tabled the following report and documents:


Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Fawcett.

The Chair of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Polley) tabled the following report and document:

Scrutiny of Bills—Standing Committee—
Alert Digest No. 3 of 2016, dated 2 March 2016.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Polley.
Senator Polley moved—That the Senate take note of the report.
Question put and passed.

Senator Fawcett, on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, tabled the following report:


Senator Fawcett moved—That the Senate take note of the report.
Debate ensued.
Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Brown in continuation.

At 7.20 pm—

27 ADJOURNMENT
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Gallacher) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
The Senate adjourned at 8 pm till Thursday, 3 March 2016 at 9.30 am.
28 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senators Bilyk* and Xenophon* (*on leave).

ROSEMARY LAING
Clerk of the Senate

Printed by authority of the Senate