# Senate Journals

## No. 41: Wednesday, 12 February 2020

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1 Meeting of Senate
The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Scott Ryan) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

2 Documents
The following document was tabled pursuant to standing order 61(1)(b):

Government document
1 Australian Building and Construction Commission—Performance of the functions and the exercise of powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019.

The Clerk tabled the following documents pursuant to statute:

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

- A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999—Child Care Subsidy Minister’s Amendment Rules (No. 1) 2020 [F2020L00115].
- Competition and Consumer Act 2010—Competition and Consumer Legislation Amendment (Electricity Retail) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00112].

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013—
- Commonwealth acquired shares in Moorebank Intermodal Company Limited—10 February 2020 [2].
- Commonwealth disposed of shares and ceased to be a member of a company—Donaco International Limited—24 January 2020.

The Clerk tabled the following document pursuant to the order of the Senate of 25 June 2014:

Estimates hearings—Unanswered questions on notice—Budget estimates 2019-20 (Supplementary)—Statement—Health portfolio.

3 Committees—Leave to meet during sitting
Committees were authorised to meet during the sitting of the Senate, as follows:

- Autism—Select Committee—private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) on Tuesday, 25 February and 24 March 2020, from 1 pm.
- Financial Technology and Regulatory Technology—Select Committee—
  private briefing today, from 11.30 am.
- public meeting on Thursday, 27 February 2020, from 5 pm.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—public meeting on Thursday, 13 February 2020, from 3.30 pm.

4 Community Sport Infrastructure Program—Legal authority of minister—Communication between offices—Orders for production of documents—Explanations by ministers
Pursuant to order (see entry nos 35 and 36, 5 February 2020), the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck) and the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Payne) provided explanations concerning their responses to orders for the production of documents relating to the Community Sport Infrastructure Program
The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) moved—That the Senate take note of the explanations.
Debate ensued.

At 10.50 am: Debate was interrupted while Senator Rice was speaking.
Suspension of sitting: Pursuant to order, the sitting of the Senate was suspended till the ringing of the bells to enable senators to attend a meeting of the House of Representatives for the annual Closing the Gap statement by the Prime Minister.

The sitting of the Senate resumed and debate continued.
Question put and passed.

At 12.45 pm—

5 Senators’ statements
Senators made statements.
6 Questions
Questions without notice were answered.

7 Motions to take note of answers
Senator Kitching moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds) and the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) to questions without notice asked by Senators Green and Kitching today relating to the use of defence imagery and the Community Sport Infrastructure Program.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Senator Birmingham) to a question without notice asked by Senator Waters today relating to the gas industry.
Question put and passed.

8 Petition
The following petition, lodged with the Clerk by Senator Faruqi, was received:
From 622 petitioners, requesting that the Senate take action to end the live animal export trade and support producers to transition away from live exports.

9 Notices
Senators Polley, Marielle Smith, Ciccone, O’Neill and Farrell: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
   (i) some Australians with type 1 diabetes will benefit from the addition of flash glucose monitoring which has finally been added to the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS),
   (ii) the addition of the scheme occurs only after a massive year-long community campaign by Australians with type 1 diabetes and the Opposition, including the tabling of a petition of 214,000 signatures to Parliament,
   (iii) instead of claiming credit for a diabetes subsidy that comes a year late, and will cover fewer people than promised, the Minister for Health, Mr Greg Hunt, should apologise to Australians with type 1 diabetes for the delay,
   (iv) Minister Hunt compounded his insult to Australians with type 1 diabetes by when he would allow its addition; he claimed to have never made the promise, but people with diabetes know his promise was clear,
thousands of Australians have been forced to continue a painful regimen of finger-prick testing for 12 months because of the Minister’s broken promise,

the recent announcement also falls short of expectations that all Australians with type 1 diabetes would be eligible for this NDSS subsidy, and

while very welcome for these groups, thousands of Australians will still miss out on affordable access to the flash monitor;

calls on Minister Hunt to apologise for the delay; and

thanks all those who worked so hard for this outcome, including the petition organiser Mr Chris Slingsby-Smith. (general business notice of motion no. 448)

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

notes that:

on 5 November 2019, Sunsuper confirmed it was in merger talks with QSuper – Queensland’s largest superannuation fund, which would create the nation’s largest superannuation fund,

the Chairman of the Sunsuper Board is the Honourable Andrew Fraser, former Queensland Treasurer and State Labor Member for Mount Coot-tha,

Ms Anne Fuchs, Sunsuper Head of Advice and Retirement, is the Treasurer of the Queensland Labor Party and a Director of Labor Holdings Pty Ltd – the Queensland Labor Party’s investment arm;

expresses its concern at the $11,000 political donation made by Sunsuper to the Queensland Labor Party on 5 September 2019;

calls on Sunsuper to ensure that the interests of its hardworking members are the primary consideration in all business decisions; and

calls on the Queensland Government to ensure that due process is followed in all decisions regarding the proposed Sunsuper and QSuper merger and reflect on whether it is appropriate for its party organisation to accept an $11,000 political donation from Sunsuper. (general business notice of motion no. 449)

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

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.

That the Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018 be restored to the Notice Paper and consideration of the bill resume at the stage reached in the 45th Parliament. (general business notice of motion no. 450)

Senator Whish-Wilson: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

notes that:

the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), Mr Philip Lowe, has consistently urged government to use the cheapest money in history to invest in productivity – enhancing infrastructure, new data technologies, human capital, clean energy production and distribution, and measures to protect Australia from climate change, and
(ii) the Government’s neglect of fiscal policy and its over-reliance on monetary policy is encouraging the inflation of asset prices and is helping push home ownership further beyond the reach of young Australians; and

(b) urges the Government to adopt the advice of the RBA and drive a government-led plan of investment to create new jobs and new industries in order to create a more sustainable economy and a more equitable future for Australians. (general business notice of motion no. 451)

Senator O’Neill: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) recognises that:

(i) the recent storms in NSW have capped off a brutal summer of natural disasters for Australia,

(ii) tens of thousands of people have been left without electricity, and residents have been forced to evacuate in areas across Sydney and the Central Coast,

(iii) hardworking members of the United Services Union and Electrical Trades Union (ETU) are out across the State of NSW in risky conditions working hard to restore power and clean up following this catastrophic weather event, and

(iv) residents in Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point of NSW have been without power for over 120 hours in the last 5 months, and recognises the hard work done by the members of the Mooney Cheero Progress Association;

(b) calls on the NSW Government to:

(i) explicitly recognise the significant role that union members make in clean-up efforts,

(ii) ensure that recovery efforts in future years are not hampered by shortages of workers,

(iii) acknowledge that privatisation of electricity infrastructure has failed to deliver better, cheaper and more reliable services for Australians,

(iv) invest in better publicly run and publicly funded services as promised by the NSW Government, and

(c) condemns the cuts to 5000 jobs since 2015 at electrical distribution businesses in NSW; and

(d) calls on the Federal Government to:

(i) acknowledge that privatisation of electricity infrastructure has failed to deliver better, cheaper and more reliable services for Australians as promised by the Federal Liberal Government,

(ii) urgently undertake the necessary reforms at the National Energy Market level to address the deficiencies in the regulatory framework which compromises adequate resourcing and staffing by distribution companies to reliably deliver power to residents and recover from the damage caused by storms of increasing severity on the electricity network, and

(iii) invite the ETU to the upcoming COAG Energy Council to brief the Council on the lack of capacity of electricity network and distribution businesses to adequately address and recover from events like the recent NSW storms. (general business notice of motion no. 452)
Senator Farrell: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:
   (i) extended payment times are an ongoing issue for small businesses around Australia,
   (ii) small businesses require prompt payments to help manage cash flow and to grow, particularly when access to finance is tight,
   (iii) almost a year and a half ago, the Prime Minister promised to create a register of the payment times of Australia’s 3,000 largest companies,
   (iv) big businesses are frequently extending payment terms to small and medium sized suppliers,
   (v) big businesses are increasingly extending payment terms while also offering third party ‘reverse factoring’ financing arrangements to small and medium suppliers,
   (vi) small and medium businesses are forced to accept fees in such arrangements in order to be paid in reasonable timeframes,
   (vii) the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is reviewing ‘reverse factoring’ arrangements for potential breaches of Australian Consumer Law,
   (viii) the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Ms Kate Carnell, said in the Review of payment terms, times and practices report, dated March 2019, that such arrangements “must not replace reasonable payment terms being offered, 30 days or less from invoice, and paying to those terms. It is not acceptable for large business to use small suppliers to optimise their cash flow”, and
   (ix) following pressure from Labor, members of the crossbench, the Ombudsman, and the media, Rio Tinto and Telstra, have committed to 20-day payment terms; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to:
   (i) release details on its register of the payment times of Australia’s 3,000 largest companies,
   (ii) make a commitment that big businesses that extend payment times beyond 30 days and offer ‘reverse factoring’ arrangements cannot use such arrangements to hide their true payment times on the register, and
   (iii) clampdown on conditions that allow big businesses to treat small businesses like piggy banks. (general business notice of motion no. 453)
The Manager of Government Business (Senator Ruston): To move on the next day of sitting—

(1) That departments and agencies be allocated to legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:

**Community Affairs**
- Health
- Social Services

**Economics**
- Industry, Science, Energy and Resources **excluding** Energy and Small Business
- Treasury

**Education and Employment**
- Education, Skills and Employment, **including** Industrial Relations
- Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, **excluding** Industry, Science, and Energy and Resources but **including** Small Business

**Environment and Communications**
- Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, **excluding** Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
- Agriculture, Water and the Environment, **excluding** Agriculture and Water
- Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, **excluding** Industry, Science, and Resources

**Finance and Public Administration**
- Finance
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**
- Defence, including Veterans’ Affairs
- Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs**
- Attorney-General, excluding Industrial Relations
- Home Affairs

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**
- Agriculture, Water and the Environment, **excluding** the Environment
- Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications **excluding** Communications

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

(a) notes that the Migration Amendment (New Skilled Regional Visas) Regulations 2019 created new skilled regional provisional visas that began accepting applicants in November 2019;

(b) recognises that the Government has:

(i) appointed Regional Certifying Bodies (RCB) in each state and territory to provide advice and information to the Department of Home Affairs about local labour market conditions and other relevant regional matters,

(ii) nominated local Chambers of Commerce and Industry across Queensland to act as RCB,
(iii) failed to explain how actual or perceived conflicts of interest can be resolved when Queensland Chambers of Commerce and Industry are assessing and certifying applications for new regional provisional visas from their own members, and

(iv) failed to allow consideration of the New Skilled Regional Visas (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2019, despite it being on the Notice Paper since October 2019; and

(c) condemns the Federal Government for its failure to consult with unions and other employee groups prior to the appointment of RCB in Queensland. (general business notice of motion no. 454)

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

(a) notes that:

(i) Prime Minister Scott Morrison has signed off on a $2 billion deal with the New South Wales Government that would fast track the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP), which will extract gas from coal seams lying deep beneath the mighty Pilliga Forest,

(ii) the NGP is fiercely opposed by local communities, farmers, and ecologists because it threatens the Pilliga Forest, the Great Artesian Basin, farmers’ livelihoods, and food and water security, and

(iii) the NGP will further delay the shift to renewables and exacerbate the climate crisis; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to protect the Pilliga Forest and the Great Artesian Basin from any new fossil fuel projects including the NGP. (general business notice of motion no. 455)

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

(a) notes:

(i) the growth in farmer-led action across Australia to adopt regenerative agricultural practices which are increasing soil health and carbon, and improving biodiversity and water systems,

(ii) that regenerative agriculture practices have the potential to address drought, flood and desertification issues currently faced by Australian farmers and land managers, and which are exacerbated by global heating and the climate crisis, and

(iii) that the second annual National Regenerative Agriculture Day is being held in Australia on 14 February 2020, sharing practices and information amongst primary producers nationally; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to support agricultural practices that contribute to improving soil carbon, water systems and biodiversity, and which increase the resilience and health of our food and fibre production in Australia. (general business notice of motion no. 456)
Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that the low rate of Newstart and the insufficient rate of disaster payments do not adequately meet people’s needs and can exacerbate the difficult circumstances people are experiencing in the face of bushfires and drought; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to immediately raise the rate of Newstart by at least $95 a week and raise the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment to $3000 per adult and $1000 per child. (general business notice of motion no. 457)

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

(a) notes that:
   (i) everyone has a right to education, whether you are leaving school, changing careers, retraining later in life or looking to gain new skills and knowledge,
   (ii) more than a million students will commence at, or return to, public universities and TAFEs around Australia this month,
   (iii) access to a world-class education shouldn’t require going into large debts, but the average graduate today is saddled with more than $22,000 in study debt, and
   (iv) a student graduating in 2020 will take a decade on average to repay their study loans just as they are starting out in life; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to make TAFE and university free. (general business notice of motion no. 458)

Senators Di Natale and Faruqi: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act in India on 10 December 2019, which legalised the granting of Indian citizenship based on religion but specifically excluded Muslims;

(b) expresses deep concern that the Indian Government has created the legal grounds to strip millions of Muslims of the fundamental right of equal access to citizenship;

(c) is further concerned that the Citizenship Amendment Act could be used, along with India’s National Register of Citizens, to render many Muslim citizens of India stateless;

(d) further notes that there have been widespread protests in India against the Citizenship Amendment Act, and that the Indian Government’s response has been to impose curfews, shutdown internet services, use violence and force and detain and allegedly torture human rights activists;

(e) expresses solidarity with the community, students, academics, authors, artists, lawyers and many others who have been at the forefront of the movement against the Citizenship Amendment Act in India and across the world; and

(f) urges the Australian Government to call on the Indian Government to:
   (i) revoke the Citizenship Amendment Act,
   (ii) stop the criminalisation of protests, and
   (iii) treat all of its citizens equally. (general business notice of motion no. 459)
Senator McAllister: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) acknowledges Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s extraordinary rebuke of New South Wales Minister for Energy and Environment and fellow Liberal, Mr Matt Kean MP, for suggesting federal Liberals are pushing the Morrison Government to increase its ambition on emissions reduction;
(b) notes that Prime Minister Morrison told ABC’s AM program in response to Minister Kean’s comments: “Matt Kean doesn’t know what he’s talking about, he doesn’t know what’s going on in the federal cabinet [and] most of the federal cabinet wouldn’t even know who Matt Kean was”;
(c) acknowledges the support of federal Liberals, including North Sydney MP Mr Trent Zimmerman, for increased emissions reduction;
(d) further notes:
   (i) Mr Zimmerman’s quote in the Fairfax-Nine newspapers that: “Australians want us to get on with the job of meeting our Paris emissions but looking at what more we can do to reduce our emissions further”,
   (ii) that despite Prime Minister Morrison repeatedly declaring Australia will “meet and beat” its international emission reductions obligations that:
      (A) the Government’s own emissions data confirms Australia will not meet our Kyoto commitment to cut emissions by 5% next year on 2000 levels by 2020,
      (B) the Government’s own data suggests our emissions will come down by less than 5% over the next 10 years, and
      (C) at the Government’s current rate of emissions reduction it will take Australia 230 years to reach net zero emissions, rather than the 30 years scientists tell us is necessary; and
(e) calls on the Prime Minister to stop fudging the numbers and show some leadership, control the civil war within the Coalition over climate action, and finally put in place a policy that will reduce Australia’s emissions. (general business notice of motion no. 460)

Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that the Closing the Gap Report 2020 shows that we are on track to meet just 2 of the 7 targets to reduce the disparity in health, education and employment outcomes between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous peoples;
(b) acknowledges:
   (i) the important work being done between the Council of Australian Governments and the Coalition of Peaks to develop a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and
   (ii) that punitive measures like compulsory income management, the Cashless Debit Card, the Northern Territory Intervention, and the Community Development Program are inconsistent with this new approach;
(c) further notes the failure to implement recommendations from significant reports, such as:

(i) The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody,

(ii) *Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families*; and

(iii) Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory; and

(d) calls on the Federal Government to abandon punitive measures and to commit to a genuine process of self-determination to close the gap. *(general business notice of motion no. 461)*

*Intention to withdraw:* The Chair of the Standing Committee on the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (Senator Fierravanti-Wells), pursuant to standing order 78, gave notice of her intention, at the giving of notices on the next day of sitting, to withdraw the following:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in her name for the next day of sitting (13 February 2020) for the disallowance of the Helicopter Aerial Application Endorsements Exemption 2019, made under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988* [F2019L01132].

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in her name for nine sitting days after today (26 March 2020) for the disallowance of the Broadcasting Services (Transmitter Access) Regulations 2019, made under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* [F2019L01248]

10 **Postponements**

General business notice of motion no. 437 standing in the name of Senator Hanson-Young for today 12 February 2020, proposing the introduction of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020, postponed till 13 February 2020.

11 **Committee—Extension of time to report**

Economics References Committee—Unlawful underpayment of employee’s remuneration—from last sitting day in June 2020 to 3 December 2020.

12 **Ministerial standards—Minister representing the Prime Minister**

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), also on behalf of Senators Waters, Lambie, Patrick and Hanson, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 445—That—

(1) The Senate notes that:

(a) on 5 February 2020, the Senate ordered the Minister representing the Prime Minister, Senator Cormann, to table the final report provided by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Phillip Gaetjens, to the Prime Minister in relation to the application of the Statement of Ministerial Standards to the former Minister for Sport, the Honourable Senator McKenzie’s, award of funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program;
(b) on 6 February 2020, the Minister representing the Prime Minister tabled a letter making a public interest immunity claim grounded in the preservation of the confidentiality of cabinet deliberations,

(c) the document is a final report prepared outside of the Cabinet Room and has no capacity to reveal deliberations inside the Cabinet Room; and

(d) the Senate does not accept the public interest immunity claim made by the Minister representing the Prime Minister.

(2) Until the final report provided by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Phillip Gaetjens, to the Prime Minister in relation to the application of the Statement of Ministerial Standards to the former Minister for Sport, the Honourable Senator McKenzie’s, award of funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program, is tabled, or 6 March 2020, whichever is the earlier, Senator Cormann be prevented from:

(a) being asked or answering questions which may be put to ministers under standing order 72(1) where such questions are directed to the Minister representing the Prime Minister;

(b) representing the Prime Minister before a legislative and general purpose standing committee, including during consideration of estimates; and

(c) sitting at the seat at the table in the Senate chamber that is ordinarily reserved for the Leader of the Government in Senate.

Statements by leave: The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), Senators Wong and Patrick, the Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) and the Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation (Senator Hanson), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 35

Senators—

Ayres
Bilyk
Carr
Chisholm
Ciccone
Di Natale
Dodson
Farrell
Faruqi
Gallagher
Green
Hanson-Young
Keneally
Kitching
Lambie
Lines
McAllister
McCarthy
McKim
O'Neill
Patrick
Polley
Pratt
Rice
Sheldon
Siewert
Smith, Marielle
Steele-John
Sterle
Urquhart*
Walsh
Waters
Watt
Whish-Wilson
Wong
13 Consideration of disallowance motion—Helicopter Aerial Application Endorsements Exemption 2019

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), at the request of the Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—that—

(a) if the notice of motion proposing the disallowance of the Helicopter Aerial Application Endorsements Exemption 2019 standing in the name of the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (Senator Fierravanti-Wells) for two sitting days after today (13 February 2020) has not been resolved by 12.45 pm on 13 February 2020, the notice of motion shall be called on and considered at 3.30 pm that day; and

(b) if consideration of the motion is not concluded by 4 pm, the question on the unresolved motion shall then be put.

Question put and passed.

14 Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board—2019-20 additional estimates

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator Kitching and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 415—that the Senate—

(a) notes that members of the Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board are officers for the purposes of standing order 26(5); and

(b) requires members of the Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board including, but not limited to, the Chair of the Board to appear before the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee when it meets to consider the 2019-20 additional estimates, at 9 am on 4 March 2020.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.
15 **PFAS testing—Order for production of documents**

Senator Roberts, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 433—

(1) That the Senate notes that:

(a) on 5 February 2020, the Minister for Defence tabled a response to an order for the production of documents relating to PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Richmond, agreed to on 4 December 2019;

(b) the response to the order did not include information in relation to RAAF Base Richmond and included incomplete information in relation to RAAF Base Williamtown; and

(c) despite the response stating that no livestock have been tested, reports have been made that cattle have been tested within the contamination zones of RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Richmond.

(2) That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Defence, by 10 am on 26 February 2020, the following documents:

(a) details of all blood testing on defence personnel and livestock which were taken from within the contamination zone of RAAF Base Richmond (including private land) within the last 24 months, including:

(i) the level of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and

(ii) a copy of the test result for each test taken with all personal information redacted; and

(b) details of all blood testing on livestock which were taken from within the contamination zone of RAAF Base Williamtown and Williamtown Airport (including private land) within the last 24 months, including:

(i) the level of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and

(ii) a copy of the test result for each test taken.

Question put and passed.

16 **Banking code—Order for production of documents**

Senator Roberts, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 434—

(1) That the Senate notes that the Royal Commission into Financial Services made recommendations regarding voluntary codes of practice, including:

(a) recommendation 1.15 – that the Australian Securities and Investment Commission’s (ASIC) power to approve codes of conduct extends to codes relating to all Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) regulated institutions and Australian credit licence holders; that industry codes of conduct approved by ASIC may include ‘enforceable code provisions’, which are provisions in respect of which a contravention will constitute a breach of the law;
recommendation 1.16 – 2019 Banking Code, the Australian Banking Association and ASIC should take all necessary steps to have the provisions that govern the terms of the contract made or to be made between the bank and the customer or guarantor designated as ‘enforceable code provisions’; and

(c) recommendation 4.9 – as referred to in recommendation 1.15, the law should be amended to provide for enforceable provisions of industry codes and for the establishment and imposition of mandatory industry codes.

(2) The Senate further notes that ASIC stated in their publication “ASIC update on implementation of Royal Commission recommendations” as follows:

(a) ASIC will commence work immediately with the banking industry on appropriate amendments to the Banking Code in relation to each of these recommendations; and

(b) ASIC will work with industry in anticipation of the Parliament legislating reforms in relation to codes and ASIC’s powers to provide for ‘enforceable code provisions’.

(3) The response by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) to a previous order for the production of documents (no. 332), agreed to by the Senate on 4 December 2019, included no suitable documents.

(4) That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Treasurer by 5.00 pm on 24 February 2020 the following documents that relate to enforceable provisions of the Banking Code of Practice:

(a) all emails between the Treasury and any other party; and

(b) all draft or final documents, including but not limited to, internal memos, briefing documents, drafting guidelines and correspondence.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

17 Aged Care Assessment Teams

Senator McCarthy, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 435—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) the Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT) are teams of professionals that are based in hospitals across the country and are responsible for assessing which older Australians should receive government-funded care,

(ii) the Morrison Government has announced it wants to privatise the ACAT workforce from April 2021, when a tender will be put out for organisations to deliver this vital assessment,

(iii) the New South Wales (NSW) Liberal Minister for Health and Medical Research, Mr Brad Hazzard, has said that the Morrison Government’s decision to privatise these services lacks “logic” and that “NSW has major concerns”,

(b) recommends:—
(iv) no consultation was undertaken by the Morrison Government to inform its NSW Liberal colleagues of the decision to privatise aged care assessment services, and

(v) there has also been criticism about the Morrison Government wanting to privatise assessment services by highly regarded experts across the aged care sector;

(b) supports the retention of ACATs as a publicly, independently provided service;

(c) opposes the privatisation of the ACAT workforce; and

(d) condemned the Morrison Government for its continued piecemeal approach to aged care policy.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

18 Underpayment of employees

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senators Walsh and Sheldon and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 436—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) Dinner by Heston, the high-end restaurant fronted by Mr Heston Blumenthal, has been caught stealing up to $4.5 million from its own employees,

(ii) these employees worked up to 25 unpaid hours each week, leaving many underpaid to the sum of $35,000 a year,

(iii) Dinner by Heston’s landlord, Crown Casino, aided in this endeavour by entering into byzantine corporate arrangements including interest-free loans, millions paid to the restaurant’s owners in licensing fees, and an annual rent for the restaurant of only $1,

(iv) this $4.5 million underpayment scandal joins Mr George Calombaris’ $7.8 million dollar underpayment scandal and Mr Neil Perry’s $10 million dollar underpayment scandal as yet another example of an alarming business model amongst elements of corporate Australia, and

(v) there is a wage theft crisis in Australia that must be addressed;

(b) supports real action on the underlying causes of these issues through the Economics References Committee inquiry, Unlawful underpayment of employees’ remuneration, agreed on 13 November 2019; and

(c) commends the United Workers Union for their advocacy and hard work on behalf of these affected restaurant workers.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) and the Leader of Pauline Hanson’s One Nation (Senator Hanson), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.
19 **Safer Internet Day**

Senator Bilyk, also on behalf of Senator Polley, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 440—That the Senate—

(a) notes that yesterday, 11 February 2020, was Safer Internet Day (SID), an annual, worldwide event to promote a safer and better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively;

(b) recognises that, while there are enormous benefits to the internet, going online also comes with risks including (but not limited to) cyberbullying, cyberstalking, trolling, malware, scams, and the theft of financial and personal information;

(c) expresses its support for the SID campaign’s aim to reach out to children and young people, parents and carers, teachers, educators and social workers, industry, decision makers and politicians to encourage everyone to play their part in creating a safer and better internet; and

(d) encourages:

(i) all members and senators in the Australian Parliament to promote the messages of SID to their constituents along with helpful advice about how to protect themselves and those in their care from harm online; and

(ii) the Australian Government, through its agencies – in particular the Office of the eSafety Commissioner – to provide the resources, educational materials and regulatory environment that helps all Australians to have safe, positive online experiences.

*Statement by leave:* The Leader of Pauline Hanson’s One Nation (Senator Hanson), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

20 **Remuneration of aged care workers**

The Leader of Pauline Hanson’s One Nation (Senator Hanson), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 442—That the Senate—

(a) notes that the current hourly rate of full-time pay for an adult aged care worker ranges from $20.73 (level 1) to $25.18 (level 7), which does little to recognise the dedication, compassion and caring they provide to our older, often vulnerable, Australians;

(b) acknowledges that this low rate of remuneration in an industry which demands a high level of care as well as health management skills leads to the high turnover of staffing in aged care facilities; and

(c) calls on the Federal Government to immediately act to increase pay rates in the aged care sector to better reflect the important work undertaken.

*Statement by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.
21 **Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Extension of time to report**

Senator O’Neill, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 443—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services on the regulation of auditing in Australia be extended to 1 September 2020.

Question put and passed.

*Statement by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

22 **Coal-fired generation plant—Order for production of documents**

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 444—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction (Senator Birmingham) by 3:30 pm on 24 February 2020, all Departmental advice relating to establishing a coal-fired generation plant in Collinsville, Queensland, including but not limited to:

(a) the suitability or otherwise of a new coal-fired power station in Queensland;

(b) current congestion issues in this part of the grid network; and

(c) any economic, greenhouse or environmental impacts of establishing the coal-fired power station.

*Statement by leave:* Senator Roberts, by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 33**

- Ayres
- Bilyk
- Brown
- Carr
- Chisholm
- Ciccone
- Di Natale
- Dodson
- Farrell
- Faruqi
- Gallagher
- Green
- Griff
- Hanson-Young
- Kitching
- Lambie
- Lines
- McAllister
- McCarthy
- McKim
- Patrick
- Pratt
- Rice
- Sheld
- Siewert
- Smith, Marielle
- Steele-John
- Sterle
- Urquhart*
- Walsh
- Waters
- Watt
- Whish-Wilson
NOES, 33

Senators—

Abetz    Davey    McGrath    Roberts
Antic    Duniam    McKenzie    Ruston
Askew    Fierravanti-Wells    McKenzie    Ryan
Bragg    Hanson    McMahan    Scarr
Brockman    Henderson    Molan    Seselja
Canavan    Hughes    O'Sullivan    Smith, Dean*
Cash    Hume    Paterson    Stoker
Chandler    McDonald    Rennick    Van
Colbeck

*Tellers

The ayes and noes were equal and so the question was negatived.

23 Water supplies in Australian communities

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator McAllister and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 446—

That the Senate—

(a) acknowledges:

(i) the devastating effect of drought on water supplies in Australian local communities, and

(ii) that the recent bushfire crisis has compounded water insecurity in affected areas;

(b) notes that:

(i) the Eurobodalla Shire Council’s 2016 proposal for a second water storage facility in the southern part of the shire would add 3,000 mega litres of water storage to the region,

(ii) the project has support from local and state governments, with the New South Wales (NSW) State Government committing $26.3 million in October 2019,

(iii) the Eurobodalla Shire Council has called for a $51 million commitment from the Government to build the dam, noting they will fund the rest of the $105 million project, and

(iv) all supporting parties should ensure the project is environmentally sound;

(c) recognises that:

(i) Australians and regional communities are rightly sceptical about the Government’s track record on water infrastructure and drought policy,

(ii) in 2013, former Prime Minister Abbott said he would build 100 dams across Australia—three terms later and in its seventh year of power, the Government has failed to fulfil its promise,

(iii) Prime Minister Morrison was caught out for being loose with the truth in October 2019 when he claimed his government was contributing more investment in NSW dam infrastructure than they actually were,

(iv) more than two years after the announcement of the $2 billion National Water Infrastructure Facility, not a single dollar had been spent, and
(v) that the Eurobodalla community has been waiting for a response from the Government since October 2019 in relation to their water storage proposal; and

(d) calls on the Federal Government to urgently respond to the Eurobodalla Shire Council’s request for funds for the Southern Water Supply Storage project.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.
Question put and passed.

24 Children’s Rights Report 2019

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 439—That the Senate—

(a) notes that the report from the National Children’s Commissioner, Children’s Rights Report 2019, highlighted some critical issues in the protection of children’s rights:

(i) First Nations children experience significant inequalities in health, education, justice and child protection outcomes,

(ii) there has been an increase in child deaths by suicide and hospitalisations for intentional self-harm,

(iii) approximately 17% of children under the age of 15 live in poverty,

(iv) there has been a 27% increase in reported substantiations of child abuse and neglect, and

(v) the age of criminal responsibility is ten, which is low compared to other countries; and

(b) calls on the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to implement the important recommendations made in the report, including:

(i) Australian Governments should urgently prioritise prevention and early intervention programs to reduce the number of children entering child protection systems and removing barriers to sustained reunification of children with their families by strengthening services and supports leading up to and post-reunification,

(ii) the Australian Government should make the Transition to Independent Living Allowance for children available for all care leavers leaving home up to the age of 25,

(iii) the Australian Government should develop a national poverty reduction plan that explicitly focuses on children, and

(iv) Australian Governments should raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years and abolish mandatory minimum sentencing laws that apply to children.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.
Question put and passed.
25 Climate change reports—Order for production of documents
Senator Roberts, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 441—

(1) That the Senate notes that, on 10 February 2020, Senator Cormann stated that climate change is human induced.

(2) That there be laid on the table by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, by 10 am on 24 February 2020:
   (a) a list of titles of reports and publications which the Government relies upon for this belief; and
   (b) for each publication specify the page numbers on which are presented the evidence that carbon dioxide from human activity affects climate and needs to be cut.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), the Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) and Senator Gallagher, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

26 Mitigation of climate change
Senator Whish-Wilson, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 447—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:
   (i) urgent action is required to mitigate climate change,
   (ii) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on Climate Change and Land, stated that, in the short term, leaving existing forests standing is the most effective way to manage forests to mitigate climate change, and
   (iii) the plans by the Tasmanian Government to allow logging in the Tarkine in north-west Tasmania will result in an increase in carbon emissions; and

(b) calls on the Tasmanian Government to abandon its plans to allow logging in the Tarkine.

Statements by leave: Senators Roberts and Gallagher, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 11

Senators—

Di Natale Hanson-Young Rice Waters
Faruqi McKim Siewert* Whish-Wilson
Griff Patrick Steele-John
NOES, 44

Senators—
Abetz  Colbeck  Kitching  Roberts
Antic  Davey  McAllister  Ryan
Askew  Dodson  McCarthy*  Scarr
Bragg  Duniam  McDonald  Seselja
Brockman  Farrell  McGrath  Sheldon
Canavan  Fierravanti-Wells  McKenzie  Smith, Dean
Carr  Gallagher  McLachlan  Smith, Marielle
Cash  Hanson  McMahon  Stoker
Chandler  Henderson  Molan  Van
Chisholm  Hughes  Paterson  Walsh
Ciccone  Hume  Rennick  Watt

*Tellers

Question negatived.

27 Notice
Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator McAllister, by leave, gave notice as follows: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
   (i) the Government legislated in 2014 to increase the superannuation guarantee to 12% by 2025, and
   (ii) the Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann, said in the Senate that the increase to the superannuation guarantee would be “specified and locked into the legislation”; and
(b) reaffirms its commitment to the legislated superannuation guarantee rise to 12% by 2025. (general business notice of motion no. 462)

28 Discussion of matter of public importance—Reforestation of native forests
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Brockman) informed the Senate that the following matter of public importance submitted by Senator Siewert under standing order 75 had been selected for discussion today:

The need for the Morrison government to take leadership to protect and restore Australia’s fire-damaged landscapes by investing in reforestation, protecting native forests by ending logging (including damaging, so-called ‘salvage; logging), and by urgently funding wildlife and habitat recovery.

The proposal was supported by four senators and the matter was discussed.

29 Document—Consideration
A document tabled earlier today (see entry no. 2) was considered as follows:

Motion to take note of document no. 1 moved by Senator Ciccone. Consideration to resume on Thursday at general business.
Committee reports and government responses—Tabling and consideration

Senator Ciccone, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Polley), tabled the following report:


Senator Brockman, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Scrutiny for the Delegated Legislation (Senator Fierravanti-Wells), tabled the following report:


Senator Brockman, on behalf of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, tabled the following report:


Indigenous Australians—Closing the gap—Ministerial statement—Documents

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) tabled the following documents:

Indigenous Australians—Closing the Gap—

Ministerial statement by the Prime Minister (Mr Morrison), dated 12 February 2020.

Prime Minister’s Report—Closing the Gap 2020.

Pursuant to continuing order, consideration of the documents was listed as a government business order of the day for a later hour.

Recreational hunting and shooting—Report—Order for production of documents—Documents

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) tabled the following documents:

Recreational hunting and shooting—Report—Order of 5 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck) responding to the order and raising a public interest immunity claim, and attachments.
Committee membership
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Faruqi) informed the Senate that the President had received letters requesting changes in the membership of committees.
The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston), by leave, moved—that senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—
Discharged—Senator Sheldon.
Appointed—Participating member: Senator Sheldon

Temporary Migration—
Appointed—Participating member: Senator Faruqi.
Question put and passed.

Treasury Laws Amendment (2019 Measures No. 3) Bill 2019
A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:

Message no. 156, dated 11 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, corporations, competition, financial services, consumer credit, product grants and benefits, superannuation and legislative and other instruments, and for related purposes.
The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) 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 Ruston moved—that this bill be now read a second time.
On the motion of Senator Ruston the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Treasury Laws Amendment (Your Superannuation, Your Choice) Bill 2019
A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) 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 Ruston moved—that this bill be now read a second time.
Consideration of legislation: Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned till the day fixed for the Economics Legislation Committee to report on the bill, 20 March 2020.
36 **Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Simplifying Income Reporting and Other Measures) Bill 2020**
**Treasury Laws Amendment (Reuniting More Superannuation) Bill 2020**

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:
- Message no. 162, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to social security, family assistance, student assistance and veterans’ entitlements, and for related purposes.
- Message no. 157, dated 11 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation and superannuation, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) 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 Ruston moved—that these bills be now read a second time.

*Consideration of legislation:* Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned till the first day in the next period of sittings, 23 March 2020.

On the motion of Senator Ruston the bills were listed as separate orders of the day.

37 **Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Cross-boundary Greenhouse Gas Titles and Other Measures) Bill 2019**
**Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2019**

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) 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 Ruston moved—that these bills be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Ruston the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

38 **Committee membership**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported informing the Senate of in the membership of the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety, as follows:
- Message no. 160, dated 12 February 2020—Mr Thistlethwaite in place of Mr Zappia.
39 **Closing the gap—Ministerial statement—Consideration**

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) moved—That the Senate take note of the annual report on Closing the Gap and accompanying ministerial statement.

Debate ensued.

*At 7.20 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Lines was speaking.

40 **Adjournment**

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Griff) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 7.55 pm till Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 9.30 am.

41 **Attendance**

Present, all senators except Senator Gallacher (on leave).

**Richard Pye**

Clerk of the Senate