2016-18

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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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 Estimates hearings—Unanswered questions on notice—Order for production of documents—Document
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 2017-18 (Supplementary)—Statement—Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio.

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

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—public meeting on Wednesday, 14 February 2018, from 9.40 am, followed by a private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) and a private briefing.

Future of Work and Workers—Select Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 11.30 am.

Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee—private briefing today, from 4 pm.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—private briefing on Monday, 12 February 2018, from 3.30 pm.

4 Vacancy in the representation of Queensland
The President announced the resignation, on 7 February 2018, of Senator Brandis and advised the Senate that, pursuant to section 21 of the Constitution, he would shortly notify the Governor of Queensland that there was a vacancy in the representation of that state.

Document: The President tabled the following document:

Vacancy in the representation of Queensland—Letter from Senator Brandis to the President, dated 7 February 2018.

5 Future Frigate project—Orders for production of documents—Non-compliance—Statement
Pursuant to order (see entry no. 21, 6 February 2018), the Minister for Defence (Senator Payne) made a statement relating to orders for the production of documents concerning the Future Frigate project.

Senator Patrick moved—That the Senate take note of the statement.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.
6 Social Security (Administration) (Trial Area) Amendment Determination—Motion for disallowance—Consideration

The Minister for Jobs and Innovation (Senator Cash), at the request of the Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) and pursuant to notice, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—That the business of the Senate notice of motion proposing the disallowance of the Social Security (Administration) (Trial Area) Amendment Determination (No. 2) 2017, standing in the name of Senator Siewert, have precedence over all government business until determined.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

7 Social Security (Administration) (Trial Area) Amendment Determination—Proposed disallowance

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1—That the Social Security (Administration) (Trial Area) Amendment Determination (No. 2) 2017, made under the Social Security (Administration) Act 1999, be disallowed [F2017L01170].

Debate ensued.

Question put and negatived.

8 Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card) Bill 2017

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for International Development and the Pacific (Senator Fierravanti-Wells)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

At 11.45 am: Debate was interrupted while Senator Paterson was speaking.

9 Notices

Senator Steele-John: To move on the next day of sitting—

(1) That the Senate notes that:

(a) on 14 December 2017, the United States (US) Federal Communications Commission voted to remove network neutrality protections;

(b) Australia has no dedicated protections and existing legislation is insufficient to ensure that networks do not discriminate against or prioritise specific services, applications or content delivered over the internet;

(c) in March 2012, the Convergence Review Final Report noted that the 'ACCC’s existing powers to address competition issues as they relate to content services in the communications market focus on anti-competitive conduct and economic market analysis' which are 'too narrow to address evolving content-specific issues, such as exclusive rights arrangements and bundling, and network neutrality issues that inhibit competition’; and

(d) there are existing instances of anti-competitive arrangements between internet service providers and content providers in Australia, including zero rating and unmetered traffic from selected providers, excluding competitors.
That the following matter be referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee for inquiry and report by 15 June 2018:

Australia’s need for public interest network neutrality protections and the implications for Australia arising from a US repeal of network neutrality protections, including:

(a) any instances of current and past violations of network neutrality in Australia and any related anti-competitive conduct;

(b) the effectiveness and reach of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in regulating network neutrality in Australia, any obstacles preventing the ACCC from effectively regulating the telecommunications sector, and considerations beyond consumer and competition law;

(c) any considerations or implications for Australia arising from changes to network neutrality laws in the US, including whether Australia needs to renegotiate its free trade agreement with the US as a consequence;

(d) international best practice for network neutrality regulation and protections;

(e) potential regulations and protections that should be considered in order to maintain Australia’s open internet and prevent anti-competitive behaviour from internet service and content providers; and

(f) any related matters.

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Williams): To move 15 sitting days after today—That the Commercial Broadcasting (Tax) (Individual Transmitter Amounts) Determination 2017, made under the Commercial Broadcasting (Tax) Act 2017, be disallowed [F2017L01375].

The Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham): To move on the next day of sitting—That the order of the Senate agreed to on 31 August 2016 relating to the allocation of departments and agencies to legislative and general purpose standing committees, be amended to read as follows:

Community Affairs
Health and Aged Care
Human Services
Social Services

Economics
Jobs and Innovation (Industry, Innovation and Science)
Treasury

Education and Employment
Education and Training
Jobs and Innovation (Jobs and Small Business)

Environment and Communications
Communications and the Arts
Environment and Energy

Finance and Public Administration
Finance
Parliament
Prime Minister and Cabinet

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence, including Veterans’ Affairs
The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes with grave concern that:
   (i) Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen has been systematically dismantling independent voices and political opposition in Cambodia,
   (ii) a crackdown on Cambodia’s main opposition, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), has seen its leader, Kem Sokha, arrested on treason charges following a speech he gave in Melbourne, and exiled former leader, Sam Rainsy, found guilty of defamation,
   (iii) fewer than 40% of CNRP members of Parliament remain in Cambodia after they were forced to flee the threat of arrest on treason charges, and
   (iv) Cambodia has imprisoned Australian journalist and filmmaker Mr James Ricketson on charges of espionage;

(b) further notes that Australia was a party to the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, aimed at ending the conflict in Cambodia and which set out a vision for a democratic political system with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

(c) calls on the Australian Government to:
   (i) urge Prime Minister Hun Sen to reinstate the banned CNRP and reinstate MPs to their rightful seats,
   (ii) continue to raise Australia’s concerns about the detention of Mr Ricketson,
   (iii) revoke Prime Minister Hun Sen’s invitation to the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, to be held in Sydney in March 2018, and
   (iv) implement targeted sanctions against members of Hun Sen’s Government involved in undermining Cambodia’s democracy. (general business notice of motion no. 699)

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

(1) The Senate notes that:
   (a) in April 2016, former Australian CEO of Future Submarine designer DCNS (now known as Naval Group), Mr Sean Costello, stated to the media that ‘over 90%’ of the $50 billion submarine build would take place in Australia;
   (b) shortly after, the Minister for Defence Industry (Mr Pyne) reiterated those comments on ABC’s Q&A program;
   (c) in June 2017, Mr Brent Clark, CEO of DCNS Australia, told a Senate committee that ‘an aim point of greater than 60% would be something that [DCNS] would aim for’;
(d) in October 2017, it was reported by Fairfax media that the Minister made public comments at the Pacific 2017 Naval Conference clarifying the definition of a local build to be 60%, and confirming that at least 60% of the work on the submarines would be done by Australian firms;

(e) in February 2018, Mr Costello confirmed that the 90% build figure ‘absolutely’ went into the tender response presented to the Australian Government, ‘down to the percentile’ and it is reasonable to presume that this 90% build figure would have influenced the Australian Government’s decision to award the contract to DCNS;

(f) the level of Australian industry involvement and local content in the Future Submarine Project is critical to Australia’s defence industry, Australian jobs, and the economic benefit that the Future Submarine Project brings; and

(g) there needs to be clarity on the minimum level of Australian industry involvement in the Future Submarine Project.

(2) There be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Defence Industry, by no later than 3.30 pm on 14 February 2018, the Australian Industry Capability Plan submitted by DCNS to the Department of Defence in its response to the Future Submarine Competitive Evaluation Process. (general business notice of motion no. 700)

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong): To move on the next day of sitting—

(1) That the Senate—

(a) recognises the need for greater security for the delivery of the full 3200 gigalitres, including the 450 gigalitre component, and immediate progress on projects to deliver the return of 450 gigalitre component to the Murray-Darling Basin; and

(b) calls on the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to update the work that the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has already carried out in good faith, to provide better information and analysis in the following areas to restore public confidence in the Northern Basin review and instrument:

(i) the need for taxpayer-funded environmental water to be used for environmental purposes,

(ii) a comprehensive response to allegations of corruption and theft in the Northern Basin,

(iii) Indigenous consultation and engagement in water planning and governance, and

(iv) the accuracy of data and modelling assumptions.

(2) That the business of the Senate notice of motion given on 7 February 2018 by Senator Hanson-Young, proposing the disallowance of the Basin Plan Amendment Instrument 2017 (No. 1), be considered on 14 February 2018. (general business notice of motion no. 701)

Senator Hanson-Young: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Basin Plan Amendment (SDL Adjustments) Instrument 2017, made under the Water Act 2007, be disallowed [F2018L00040].
Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that the Closing the Gap report 2018, A ten-year review: the Closing the Gap Strategy and recommendations for reset, was released in Parliament House on 8 February 2018;
(b) acknowledges that the target to achieve life expectancy equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by 2030 will not be met if the current course continues;
(c) recognises that the Closing the Gap Strategy was effectively abandoned after five years, and that there is an urgent need for the strategy to be reset based on the existing Close the Gap statement of intent commitments with a corresponding national response and equitable, needs-based investment; and
(d) urges the federal, state and territory governments to implement the six recommendations of the review. (general business notice of motion no. 702)

Notice of motion withdrawn: Senator Fawcett, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Williams), pursuant to notice of intention given on 7 February 2018, withdrew business of the Senate notices of motion nos 5 and 6 standing in Senator Williams’ name for 11 sitting days after today for the disallowance of the following instruments:


10 Selection of Bills—Standing Committee—Report no. 1 of 2018
Senator Fawcett, at the request of the Chair of the Selection of Bills Committee (Senator Bushby), tabled the following report:

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1 OF 2018

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 7 February 2018 at 7.21 pm.

2. The committee recommends that—
(a) the provisions of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Carbon Capture and Storage) Bill 2017 be referred immediately to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 8 May 2018;
(b) the National Broadcasters Legislation Amendment (Enhanced Transparency) Bill 2017 be referred immediately to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 26 March 2018; and
(c) the Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Bill 2017 be referred immediately to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 16 March 2018.

3. The committee recommends that the following bills not be referred to committees:
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Operational Efficiency) Bill 2017
Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Amendment Bill 2017
Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Foreign Media Ownership and Community Radio) Bill 2017
Corporations Amendment (Crowd-sourced Funding for Proprietary Companies) Bill 2017
Enhancing Online Safety (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Bill 2017
Export Control Bill 2017
Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2017
National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits—Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2017.

4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
   Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2018
   Australian Passports Amendment (Identity-matching Services) Bill 2018
   Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Amendment (Debt Ceiling) Bill 2018
   Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Fees Imposition Amendment (Near-new Dwelling Interests) Bill 2018
   Identity-matching Services Bill 2018
   Imported Food Control Amendment (Country of Origin) Bill 2017
   Road Vehicle Standards Bill 2018
   Road Vehicle Standards Charges (Imposition—Customs) Bill 2018
   Road Vehicle Standards Charges (Imposition—Excise) Bill 2018
   Road Vehicle Standards Charges (Imposition—General) Bill 2018
   Road Vehicle Standards (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2018
   Treasury Laws Amendment (2018 Measures No. 1) Bill 2018
   Treasury Laws Amendment (2018 Measures No. 2) Bill 2018
   Treasury Laws Amendment (Black Economy Taskforce Measures No. 1) Bill 2018
   Treasury Laws Amendment (Reducing Pressure on Housing Affordability Measures No. 2) Bill 2018.

   David Bushby
   Chair
   8 February 2018.

Senator Fawcett moved—That the report be adopted.

Senator Siewert moved the following amendment:
   At the end of the motion, add “but in respect of the Enhancing Online Safety (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Bill 2017, the bill be referred to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 27 April 2018”.

Debate ensued.

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

Main question put and passed.
11 **Order of business—Rearrangement**

The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) moved—That—

(a) the following government business orders of the day be considered from 12.45 pm today:

No. 5 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment (Authority Governance and Other Matters) Bill 2017
No. 6 Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2017
No. 7 Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Amendment Bill 2017; and

(b) government business be called on after consideration of the bills listed in paragraph (a) and considered till not later than 2 pm today.

Question put and passed.

Senator McGrath moved—That the order of general business for consideration today be as follows:

(a) general business orders of the day:

No. 62 Regional Forest Agreements Legislation (Repeal) Bill 2017
No. 54 Voice for Animals (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015; and

(b) orders of the day relating to documents.

Question put and passed.

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

The following committee was granted an extension of time to report:

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—Air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities, extended to 20 September 2018.

13 **Death of Dr Hugh Wirth, AM**

Senator Siewert, at the request of Senators Di Natale and Rhiannon and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 692—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the passing, on 5 February 2018, of Dr Hugh Wirth, AM,
(ii) that Dr Wirth was a highly-respected veterinarian, including as the resident vet on ABC Radio Melbourne’s Saturday morning show,
(iii) that he was President of RSPCA Victoria’s Board from 1972 to 2015, and served on the Board of RSPCA Australia for 35 years,
(iv) that he made an outstanding contribution to animal welfare and became the first non-European President of World Animal Protection,
(v) that he was deeply-respected amongst his fellow colleagues and the wider public, was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985, and, in 1997, was named Victorian of the Year, and
(vi) that he will be missed as a passionate and tenacious advocate for animal welfare; and

(b) expresses its condolences to his family, and may he rest in peace.

Question put and passed.
14 National Broadband Network

Senator Steele-John, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 693—that the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) on 30 October 2017, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s (ACCC) draft report for the Communications Sector Market Study recommended that ‘the Government consider whether NBN Co should continue to be obliged to recover its full cost of investment through its prices’, and that other options should be examined, including direct budget funding,

(ii) the requirement on NBN Co to make a commercial return is compromising its ability to deliver a fast, reliable, affordable, and future-proof network to all Australians,

(iii) the connectivity virtual circuit (CVC) charge, levied by NBN Co on retail service providers (RSPs), is necessitating that RSPs choose between quality (reliability, speed and congestion) and affordability of available services, and

(iv) on 16 January 2018, the Government released its response to the report of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network, in which it reaffirmed its commitment to rollout the Multi Technology Mix with the existing business model; and

(b) calls on the Government to accept the ACCC’s recommendations to:

(i) reconsider whether NBN Co should be obliged to recover its full cost of investment through its prices, in light of the impact that this obligation is having on quality of internet services being delivered to Australians, and

(ii) examine other options for funding the NBN, including direct budget funding.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and negatived.

15 Australia Day

Senator Siewert, also on behalf of the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 694—that the Senate—

(a) acknowledges that:

(i) on 26 January 2018, tens of thousands of Australians around the country marched in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples calling on governments to change the date of Australia Day, and

(ii) 26 January is a day of mourning for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, as it represents the beginning of colonisation, the theft of their land, the decimation of their culture and the start of ongoing genocide; and

(b) calls on federal, state and territory governments to change the date of Australia Day so that everyone can participate in celebrating this national day.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) and Senator Chisholm, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.
Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 9

Senators—

Bartlett  McKim  Rice  Steele-John  
Di Natale  Rhiannon  Stiernert*  Whish-Wilson

Hanson-Young

NOES, 46

Senators—

Abetz  Gallacher  Marshall  Pratt
Anning  Georgiou  McAllister  Reynolds
Bernardi  Gichuhi  McGrath  Ruston
Birmingham  Griff  Molan  Ryan
Brockman  Hanson  Moore  Scullion
Burston  Hinch  O’Neill  Seselja
Bushby  Hume  O’Sullivan  Smith
Cameron  Ketter  Paterson  Sterle
Cash  Kitching  Patrick  Urquhart*
Chisholm  Leyonhjelm  Payne  Watt
Collins  Lines  Polley  Williams
Fierravanti-Wells  Macdonald

*Tellers

Question negatived.

16 Weapons manufacturing

Senator Whish-Wilson, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 695—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the Australian Government’s plans to make Australia one of the top ten weapons manufacturers globally, raising Australia from the 20th to the 10th spot, and

(ii) the dangerous and destructive effects of the global arms trade in fuelling conflicts;

(b) re-affirms the comments of World Vision CEO, Mr Tim Costello, that Australia will be ‘exporting death and profiting from bloodshed’;

(c) condemns the fact that the Government plans to loan $3.8 billion to arms manufacturers, which is equal to Australia’s entire foreign aid budget, which has suffered $11 billion in cuts since 2014, and follows attempts by the Government to cut $2.8 billion from higher education; and

(d) calls on the Government to cease immediately this plan to turn Australia into a mercenary nation of arms dealers, and instead use the funds to revitalise our manufacturing industry around renewable energy, electric cars, advanced medical technology and education services.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) and Senator Chisholm, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 9

Senators—

Bartlett
Di Natale
Hanson-Young

McKim
Rhiannon
Rice
Siewert*
Steele-John
Whish-John
Whish-Wilson

NOES, 46

Senators—

Abetz
Anning
Bernardi
Birmingham
Brockman
Burton
Brashby
Cameron
Cash
Chisholm
Collins
Ferravanti-Wells

Gallacher
Georgiou
Gichuhi
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Ketter
Kitching
Leyonhjelm
Lines

Marshall
McAllister
McGrath
Molan
Moore
O’Neill
O’Sullivan
Paterson
Patrick
Payne
Polley

Pratt
Reynolds
Ruston
Ryan
Scullion
Seselja
Smith
Sterle
Urquhart*
Watt
Williams

* Tellers

Question negatived.

17 Adani coal mine

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 696—that the Senate—

(a) notes, with concern, that the Adani Group (Adani) is on the record blatantly misrepresenting the number of jobs its polluting Carmichael coal mine would create;

(b) condemns Adani’s deception in inflating its jobs figures sevenfold, until it was forced under oath to reveal that the true figure is in fact 1,464 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the project, rather than the 10,000 claimed;

(c) further notes that the carbon pollution from Adani’s mine would significantly contribute to dangerous global warming, further endangering the Great Barrier Reef and the 70,000 jobs that rely on it; and

(d) asserts that rather than relying on a polluting, deceitful company to provide jobs for Queenslanders, federal and state governments should invest in renewable energy, service industries and manufacturing as the best drivers of Queensland jobs.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) and Senator Di Natale, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 9

Senators—

Bartlett
Di Natale
Hanson-Young

McKim
Rhiannon
Rice
Siewert*
Steele-John
Whish-John
Whish-Wilson
NOES, 46

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* Tellers

Question negatived.

18 Live export trade

Senator Rhiannon, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 697—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) according to the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (AMIEU), since 1990, more than 40,000 jobs in Australian meat processing have been lost to live exports,

(ii) according to the AMIEU, independent research shows that a sheep processed in Australia is worth 20% more to the economy than one sent for live export, and

(iii) the live export industry has been plagued by horrific animal cruelty; and

(b) calls on the Turnbull Government to:

(i) support the development of new meat processing facilities in northern Australia,

(ii) work with industry to end subsidies and tariffs which favour the live export trade,

(iii) provide assistance to expand the boxed meat export trade, and

(iv) work with farmers and industry to develop a smooth and successful transition away from live export by assisting to build new abattoirs, all-weather roads and developing other ways to reduce production costs.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath), Senator Chisholm and the Leader of Derryn Hinch’s Justice Party (Senator Hinch), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 10

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<th>Senators</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bartlett</td>
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<td>Steele-John</td>
<td>Whish-Wilson</td>
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Question negatived.

19 **Asylum seekers—West Lorengau Haus—Order for production of documents**

Senator Griff, also on behalf of Senator McKim, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 698—

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) on 7 December 2017, the Senate passed a motion for an order for the production of documents relating to correspondence between the Commonwealth and its Australian contractors on Papua New Guinea’s Manus Island, and

(ii) the order related to parts of contracts, correspondence, reports, memos or photographs relating to accommodation and services being delivered at West Lorengau;

(b) further notes that:

(i) the documents were sought following concerns expressed by advocates and eyewitnesses regarding the standards of accommodation at West Lorengau, including incomplete fencing and plumbing, intermittent power and water, and the sufficiency of the health and other services being delivered, particularly as compared to previous services delivered at the Manus Island regional processing centre,

(ii) according to the UNHCR’s fact sheet on Manus Island, updated on 21 January 2018, many of these concerns are ongoing,

(iii) on 17 January 2018, the then-Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs (Senator Birmingham) released a two-page response from the Minister for Home Affairs (Mr Dutton), but no documents were returned, and

(iv) the response stated that the release of the documents would be contrary to the public interest and ‘should be done on the grounds that the disclosure could be reasonably expected to cause damage to Australia’s international relations with PNG’;
(c) acknowledges that the question of what constitutes a reasonable expectation of damage to international relations has been the subject of proceedings in the Federal Court, specifically in Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade v Paul Whittaker (2005), where the court stated that ‘Damage to international relations might reasonably be expected where the disclosure of a document may disclose sensitive information so as to cause, or reasonably be expected to cause, actual and significant damage ... the test is not whether there is a risk of damage to international relations; the test requires a higher degree of certainty of damage’;

(d) does not accept that the order for the production of documents made on 7 December 2017 has been adequately dealt with, insofar as the material requested would, by necessity, include a range of information that has no bearing on Australia’s relationship with Papua New Guinea;

(e) does not accept that public interest immunity has been appropriately advanced, and calls on the Minister to review the nature of the documents ordered on 7 December 2017 and apply a higher test of real risk rather than hypothesised risk; and

(f) orders that there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, by 9 am on 19 March 2018, any correspondence requested on 7 December 2017 which meets the proper test.

Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 31

Senators—

Bartlett
Cameron
Chisholm
Collins
Di Natale
Farrell
Gallacher
Griff
Hanson-Young
Hinch
Ketter
Kitching
Leyonhjelm
Lines
Marshall
McAllister
McKim
Moore
O’Neill
Patrick
Polley
Pratt
Rhiannon
Rice

Siewert
Singh
Steele-John
Sterle
Urquhart*
Watt
Whish-Wilson

NOES, 26

Senators—

Abetz
Anning
Bernardi
Birmingham
Brockman
Burston
Bushby*
Canavan
Cash
Fawcett
Fierravanti-Wells
Fifield
Georgiou
Gichuhi
Hanson
Hume
McGrath
McKenzie
Molan
Paterson
Rex

Payne
Reynolds
Ruston
Ryan
Scullion
Smith

* Tellers

Question agreed to.
20 Education and Employment References Committee—Reference

The Chair of the Education and Employment References Committee (Senator Marshall), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 4—That the following matter be referred to the Education and Employment References Committee for inquiry and report by 14 August 2018:

Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry, with particular reference to:

(a) the scope and necessity for amending and updating any legislative inconsistencies in the relevant work health and safety scheme, including:
   (i) any provisions in the legislation which need to be updated,
   (ii) providing for appropriate consistency between the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (OPGGS Act) and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011,
   (iii) legislative changes required to the OPGGS Act to provide for appropriate consistency with the model work health and safety laws (as revised in June 2011), and
   (iv) legislative changes which recognise that the work is undertaken in remote locations;

(b) the effectiveness of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) and equivalent state and territory offshore petroleum regulators (the regulators) in promoting the work health and safety of persons engaged in offshore petroleum operations;

(c) the accountability framework to which NOPSEMA is subject with respect to work health and safety matters, and whether this needs to be strengthened;

(d) the role and structure of the NOPSEMA Board and options for improving the effectiveness of their stakeholder engagement;

(e) the workings of NOPSEMA’s collaboration, and working relationships, with other work health and safety regulators and bodies, including Safe Work Australia;

(f) challenges in attracting and retaining health and safety representatives;

(g) the adequacy of the protections afforded to health and safety representatives performing their functions under the relevant legislation;

(h) policies and practices which could be adopted by NOPSEMA to better support health and safety representatives;

(i) factors impacting on the work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry;

(j) government policies at the state, territory and Commonwealth level which have a significant impact on the work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry;

(k) relevant parallels or strategies in an international context;

(l) the role of government in providing a coordinated strategic approach to health and safety outcomes in the offshore petroleum industry; and

(m) any other related matters.
Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) and Senator Marshall, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

21 Committee membership

The President informed the Senate that he had received letters requesting changes in the membership of committees.

The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath), by leave, moved—

That senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

**Economics References Committee**—

Appointed—

Substitute member: Senator Bartlett to replace Senator Whish-Wilson for the committee’s inquiry into the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

Participating member: Senator Whish-Wilson

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee**—

Appointed—

Substitute member: Senator Steele-John to replace Senator McKim for the committee’s inquiry into cyberbullying

Participating member: Senator McKim.

Question put and passed.

22 Imported Food Control Amendment Bill 2017

Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2017

Treasury Laws Amendment (Banking Measures No. 1) Bill 2017

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


Message no. 301, dated 7 February 2018—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to banking, insurance, credit, registrable corporations and financial system regulation, and for related purposes.

The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) 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 McGrath moved—that these bills be now read a second time.

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

**Consideration of legislation:** Senator McGrath moved—that the bills be listed on the *Notice Paper* as separate orders of the day.

Question put and passed.
23 **Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment (Due Diligence Improvements) Regulations—Proposed disallowance**

Senator O’Neill, at the request of Senators Brown, Hinch and Rice and pursuant to notice, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2—that items 1, 3 to 8, 11 to 13, 16 to 19, 21 to 25, 28 to 30, and 33 to 36 of Schedule 1 of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment (Due Diligence Improvements) Regulations 2017, made under the **Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012**, be disallowed [F2017L01338].

At 12.45 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator O’Neill was speaking.

24 **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment (Authority Governance and Other Matters) Bill 2017**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (Senator Ruston) the bill was read a third time.

25 **Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Radio) Bill 2017**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (Senator Ruston) the bill was read a third time.

26 **Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Amendment Bill 2017**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (Senator Ruston) the bill was read a third time.
27 **Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card) Bill 2017**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for International Development and the Pacific (Senator Fierravanti-Wells)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

*At 2 pm*: Debate was interrupted.

28 **Questions**

Questions without notice were answered.

29 **Motions to take note of answers**

Senator Polley moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) and the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia (Senator Canavan) to questions without notice asked by Senators Singh and Urquhart today relating to the distribution of GST revenue and to funding for biosecurity measures in Tasmania.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Senator McKim moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield) to a question without notice asked by Senator McKim today relating to the processing of applications of people seeking asylum.

Question put and passed.

30 **Postponement**

Senator Hanson-Young, by leave, moved—That business of the Senate notice of motion no. 3 standing in her name for today, proposing the disallowance of the Basin Plan Amendment Instrument 2017 (No. 1), be postponed till the next day of sitting.

Question put and passed.

31 **Committee reports and government responses—Tabling and consideration**

Senator Bushby, at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (Senator O’Sullivan), tabled the following documents:

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Budget estimates 2017-18 (Supplementary)—Additional information received between 16 November 2017 and 7 February 2018—Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio.
- Infrastructure and Regional Development portfolio.

Senator Bushby, on behalf of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, tabled the following report:

Senator Bushby moved—That the Senate take note of the report.
Question put and passed.

32 Particulars of proposed additional expenditure—2017-18—Documents

The Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) tabled the following documents:

Particulars of proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2018 [Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2017-2018].
Particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2018 [Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2017-2018].

Senator Birmingham, by leave, moved—That the documents, together with the final budget outcome 2016-17 (see entry no. 2, 16 October 2017), be referred to committees for examination and report.
Question put and passed.

33 Estimates of proposed additional expenditure for 2017-18—Portfolio additional estimates statements—Portfolios and executive departments—Documents

The Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) tabled the following documents:

Estimates of proposed additional expenditure for 2017-18—Portfolio additional estimates statements—Portfolios and executive departments—
Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio.
Attorney-General’s portfolio.
Communications and the Arts portfolio.
Defence portfolio.
Department of Human Services.
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
Department of Jobs and Small Business.
Department of Veterans’ Affairs.
Education and Training portfolio.
Environment and Energy portfolio.
Finance portfolio.
Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio.
Health portfolio.
Home Affairs portfolio.
Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities portfolio.
Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.
Social Services portfolio.
Treasury portfolio.

34 Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment (Due Diligence Improvements) Regulations—Disallowance

Order read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator O’Neill (see entry no. 23).
Debate resumed.
Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 34

Senators—

Bartlett  Griff  McCarthy  Rice
Burston  Hanson  McKim  Siewert
Cameron  Hanson-Young  Moore  Singh
Chisholm  Hinch  O’Neill  Steele-John
Collins  Ketter  Patrick  Sterle
Di Natale  Kitching  Polley  Urquhart
Dodson  Lines  Pratt  Watt
Gallacher  Marshall  Rhiannon  Whish-Wilson
Georgiou  McAllister

NOES, 25

Senators—

Abetz  Cash  Macdonald  Ruston
Anning  Fawcett  McGrath  Ryan
Bernardi  Fierravanti-Wells  Molan  Scullion
Birmingham  Fifield  O’Sullivan  Seselja
Brockman  Gichuhi  Paterson  Smith*
Bushby  Leyonhjelm  Reynolds  Williams
Canavan

* Tellers

Question agreed to.

35 Publications—Standing Committee—Report—Printing standards for documents presented to Parliament—Consideration

Order of the day read for the consideration of the report of the Standing Committee on Publications on its inquiry into the printing standards for documents presented to Parliament.

Senator Smith, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (Senator Reynolds), moved—That the Senate adopt recommendation 5 of the report.

Question put and passed.

Accordingly, the following resolution was adopted:

That unless otherwise ordered, and provided that they conform to the printing standards, the following documents shall be made Parliamentary Papers upon their presentation to the Senate:

• substantive reports of parliamentary committees;
• annual reports of Commonwealth entities;
• a report of a royal commission;
• a report of the Productivity Commission;
• a report of the Auditor-General;
• a report of the Australian Human Rights Commission;
• a report of the Australia Law Reform Commission;
• a report of the Australian Electoral Commission on the redistribution of electoral division boundaries;
• Australian Government white papers;
• a report in a series that has previously been included in the Parliamentary Papers Series on the recommendation of a Publications Committee; and
• budget papers and ministerial statements presented following the presentation of the appropriation bills.

General business was called on.

36 Regional Forest Agreements Legislation (Repeal) Bill 2017
Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Rice—That this bill be now read a second time.
Debate resumed.
Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator O’Neill in continuation.

Order of the day read for the second reading of the bill.
Senator Rhiannon moved—That this bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
At 6 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator O’Neill was speaking.

38 Documents—Orders of the day—Consideration
The following orders of the day relating to documents were considered:
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator Siewert to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.
Climate Change Authority—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator Rice to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.
Department of Immigration and Border Protection—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator McKim to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.
Foreign Policy White Paper 2017. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.
Australian Human Rights Commission—Report no. 119—Ms OR on behalf of Mr OS, Miss OP and Master OQ v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Immigration and Border Protection). Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.


Workplace Gender Equality Agency—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator Kitching to take note of document agreed to.

Department of Finance—Campaign advertising by Australian Government departments and agencies—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—Royal Commission—Report of case study no. 35—Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document agreed to.

Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—Royal Commission—Report of case study no. 28—Catholic Church authorities in Ballarat. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document agreed to.


Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of detention arrangements—Government response to Ombudsman’s report no. 20 of 2017. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document agreed to.

137th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, St Petersburg, Russian Federation—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation, 14 to 18 October 2017. Motion of Senator Macdonald to take note of document agreed to.
Environment and Communications References Committee—Australia’s video game development industry—Government response—Order agreed to on 5 December 2017—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield), responding to the order. Motion of Senator Steele-John to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

President’s report to the Senate on the status of government responses to parliamentary committee reports as at 31 December 2017. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document debated and agreed to.

Mr Don Burke—Order agreed to on 6 December 2017—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia (Senator Canavan) responding to the order, and attachments. Motion of Senator Rice to take note of document agreed to.


Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)—Equity and diversity—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator Ketter to take note of document agreed to.

Department of the Treasury—Tax expenditures statement 2017. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Director of National Parks—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Innovation and Science Australia—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator O’Neill to take note of document agreed to.

Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—Royal Commission—Final report. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.


Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)—Report for 2016-17. Motion of Senator O’Neill to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Contamination of defence force facilities—Resolution agreed to on 6 December 2017—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath), and attachment. Motion of Senator Rhiannon to take note of documents called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Mid-year economic and fiscal outlook—2017-18—Statement by the Treasurer (Mr Morrison) and the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann). Motion of Senator Ketter to take note of document agreed to.


General business concluded.

39 Committee reports and government responses—Orders of the day—Consideration

The following government responses tabled on 7 February 2018 (see entry no. 32, 8 February 2018) were considered, by leave:

Education and Employment References Committee—Report—Getting our money’s worth: the operation, regulation and funding of private vocational education and training (VET) providers in Australia—Government response. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Cameron. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Education and Employment References Committee—Report—Technical and further education system in Australia—Government response. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Cameron. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

The following orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses were considered:

Community Affairs References Committee—Value and affordability of private health insurance and out-of-pocket medical costs—Progress reports [2] and final report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of reports called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Environment and Communications References Committee—Shark mitigation and deterrent measures—Report. Motion of Senator Whish-Wilson to take note of report agreed to.

Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of the Community Development Program (CDP)—Report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Delivery of National Outcome 4 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children—Report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Final report—Prevalence of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia—Government response. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Economics References Committee—Report—Australia’s general insurance industry: sapping consumers of the will to compare—Government response. Motion of Senator Ketter to take note of document debated and agreed to.
Education and Employment References Committee—Report—Penalty rates—Government response. Motion of Senator Cameron to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Environment and Communications References Committee—Report—Game on: more than playing around – The future of Australia’s video game development industry—Government response. Motion of Senator Steele-John to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.


Future of Public Interest Journalism—Select Committee—Report. Motion of Senator Bilyk to take note of report agreed to.

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Inquiry into decisions made by the Court of Disputed Returns—Report. Motion of Senator Smith to take note of report debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—Provision of services under the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention approach—Report. Motion of Senator Gallacher to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Economics References Committee—Australia’s steel industry: forging ahead—Report. Motion of Senator McAllister to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—Whether the conduct of the Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield) conformed to the principles of the Ministerial Code of Conduct in relation to his knowledge of former Senator Parry’s dual-citizenship status—Report. Motion of Senator McAllister to take note of report agreed to.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—Integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin—Interim report. Motion of Senator O’Sullivan to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Report—Care and management of younger and older Australians living with dementia and behavioural and psychiatric symptoms of dementia (BPSD)—Government response. Motion of Senator Polley to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.


Environment and Communications References Committee—In hot water: the impacts of climate change on marine fisheries and biodiversity—Report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Whish-Wilson) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Lending to Primary Production Customers—Select Committee—Report. Motion of Senator Hanson to take note of report agreed to.


Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Hidden in plain sight: An inquiry into establishing a modern Slavery Act in Australia—Report. Motion of Senator Williams to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Procedure—Standing Committee—1st report of 2017—Hours of meeting and routine of business; Tracking public interest immunity claims; Absence of a senator during a vote due to misadventure; Mode of dress for senators and possible ‘time out’ rule; Parliamentary Code for respecting cultural diversity and proposal to amend standing order 193. Motion of Senator McAllister to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.


Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates—Select Committee—Report. Motion of Senator Bilyk to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—Law of contempt—Report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Pratt) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Delivery of outcomes under the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to build inclusive and accessible communities—Report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Siewert) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Legal foundations of religious freedom in Australia—Interim report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Fawcett) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—Biosecurity risks associated with the importation of seafood and seafood products (including uncooked prawns and uncooked prawn meat) into Australia—Report. Motion of Senator O’Sullivan to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Community Affairs References Committee—Report—Availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia—Government response. Motion of Senator Moore to take note of document agreed to.


Environment and Communications References Committee—Participation of Australians in online poker—Report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Rice) to take note of report agreed to.

Red Tape—Select Committee—Effect of red tape on environmental assessment and approvals—Third interim report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Leyonhjelm) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Impact of Defence training activities and facilities on rural and regional communities—Third interim report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Gallacher) to take note of report agreed to.

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Whistleblower protections—Report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—Provision of hearing services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme—Interim report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report agreed to.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—Progress report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report agreed to.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—Provision of services under the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities related to a mental health condition—Report. Motion of Senator Gallacher to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Red Tape—Select Committee—Effect of red tape on tobacco retail—Second interim report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Leyonhjelm) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Red Tape—Select Committee—Effect of red tape on the sale, supply and taxation of alcohol—Interim report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Leyonhjelm) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Murray-Darling Basin Plan—Select Committee—Report—Refreshing the Plan—Government response. Motion of Senator Leyonhjelm to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

40 Auditor-General’s reports—Orders of the day—Consideration

The following orders of the day relating to reports of the Auditor-General were considered:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 17 of 2017-18—Assurance review—Department of Agriculture and Water Resources’ assessment of New South Wales’ protection and use of environmental water under the National Partnership Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin: Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Motion of Senator McAllister to take note of document agreed to.
Auditor-General—Audit report no. 18 of 2017-18—Performance audit—Monitoring the impact of Australian Government school funding: Department of Education and Training. Motion of Senator McAllister to take note of document agreed to.


41 Adjournment
The Deputy President (Senator Lines) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
The Senate adjourned at 7.17 pm till Monday, 12 February 2018 at 10 am.

42 Attendance

RICHARD PYE
Clerk of the Senate

Published by authority of the Senate