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1 **MEETING OF SENATE**

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

2 **DOCUMENTS**

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

[Documents presented since the last sitting of the Senate, pursuant to standing order 166, were authorised for publication on the dates indicated]

- **Annual Red Tape Reduction**—Report for 2015.
- **Auditor-General**—Audit reports for 2015-16—
  - No. 25—Performance audit—Delivery and evaluation of grant programmes: Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development; Department of Social Services.
  - No. 26—Performance audit—Defence’s management of the Mulwala propellant facility: Department of Defence.
- **Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918**—2016 Redistribution into electoral divisions—New South Wales—Report, together with composite maps and compact disc of supporting information.
- **Economics References Committee**—Housing affordability—Implementation of recommendations—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Social Services (Mr Porter), dated 3 March 2016, responding to the resolution of the Senate of 2 February 2016.
- **Entity contracts for 2015**—Letters of advice pursuant to the order of the Senate of 20 June 2001, as amended—
  - Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio. [Received 4 March 2016]
  - Environment portfolio. [Received 10 March 2016]
  - Social Services portfolio. [Received 4 March 2016]
- **Family and community services**—International Day of People with Disability—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Western Australian Minister for Disability Services (Mrs Morton), dated 9 March 2016, responding to the resolution of the Senate of 2 February 2016.
- **Indexed lists of departmental and agency files** for the period 1 July to 31 December 2015—Statements of compliance pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended—
  - Department of Human Services. [Received 10 March 2016]
  - Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio. [Received 4 March 2016]
  - Social Services portfolio. [Received 10 March 2016]
Regional Australia—Western Australia—Bushfires—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Premier of Western Australia (Mr Barnett), dated 2 March 2016, responding to the resolution of the Senate of 3 February 2016.

Treaty—Multilateral—Australia’s Accession to the Convention on Choice of Court Agreements (The Hague, 30 June 2005)—Text, together with national interest analysis.


The following documents were tabled by the Clerk 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.]


Australian Research Council Act 2001—Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme 2016—Future Fellowships [F2016L00225].

Broadcasting Services Act 1992—Broadcasting Services (Events) Notice (No. 1) 2010—

Amendment No. 1 of 2016 [F2016L00223].
Amendment No. 2 of 2016 [F2016L00224].
Amendment No. 3 of 2016 [F2016L00230].

Civil Aviation Act 1988—

Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 and Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998—Authorisation, permission and exemption — helicopter winching operations (Esso Australia)—CASA 20/16 [F2016L00232].

Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998—

Exemption — aircraft operating without carriage of Mode S transponder equipment (Balloon Flights Over Melbourne)—CASA EX39/16 [F2016L00286].
Exemption — aircraft operating without carriage of Mode S transponder equipment (Global Ballooning Australia)—CASA EX37/16 [F2016L00282].
Exemption — aircraft operating without carriage of Mode S transponder equipment (Goldrush Ballooning)—CASA EX36/16 [F2016L00271].
Exemption — aircraft operating without carriage of Mode S transponder equipment (Picture This Ballooning)—CASA EX38/16 [F2016L00284].
Exemption — from life jacket standard (Jayrow Helicopters)—CASA EX30/16 [F2016L00275].
Exemption — from life jacket standard (Rotor-Lift Aviation)—CASA EX31/16 [F2016L00272].
Exemption — instrument proficiency check for single-pilot turbojet aeroplane type rating—CASA EX41/16 [F2016L00290].
Exemption — use of radio-communication systems in firefighting operations (New South Wales Rural Fire Service)—CASA EX40/16 [F2016L00228].
Repeal of Airworthiness Directive—CASA ADCX 003/16 [F2016L00279].

Corporations Act 2001—
Accounting Standard AASB 16 Leases – February 2016 [F2016L00233].

Defence Act 1903—
Section 58B—
Hardship allowance – amendment—Defence Determination 2016/5.
Recruit instructors – amendment—Defence Determination 2016/11.

Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014—Determination of Exclusion Periods for Amber Zone 1 and Amber Zone 2 for Financial Year 2015-2016 Amendment No. 4 [F2016L00281].

Export Control Act 1982—
Export Control (Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement Tariff Rate Quotas) Order 2016 [F2016L00283].
Export Control (Orders) Regulations 1982—Export Control (Fees) Amendment (Tariff Rate Quotas) Order 2016 [F2016L00238].


Judiciary Act 1903—Legal Services Amendment (Removal of External Legal Service Provider Reporting Requirements) Direction 2016 [F2016L00287].


Private Health Insurance Act 2007—Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Rules 2016 (No. 1) [F2016L00268].


Taxation Administration Act 1953—PAYG Withholding Variation: Company Directors and Office Holders [F2016L00222].

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997—
Determination under paragraph 15(1)(b) No. 1 of 2016 [F2016L00289],
Determination under paragraph 15(1)(d) No. 1 of 2016 [F2016L00237].

Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986—
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning acute lymphoblastic leukaemia—No. 37 of 2016 [F2016L00263].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning acute myeloid leukaemia (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 34 of 2016 [F2016L00251].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning acute myeloid leukaemia (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 33 of 2016 [F2016L00250].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning aplastic anaemia—
No. 31 of 2016 [F2016L00260].
No. 32 of 2016 [F2016L00267].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma—No. 38 of 2016 [F2016L00273].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning depressive disorder (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 30 of 2016 [F2016L00258].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning depressive disorder (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 29 of 2016 [F2016L00257].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning diabetes mellitus—
No. 27 of 2016 [F2016L00276].
No. 28 of 2016 [F2016L00278].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning myelodysplastic syndrome (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 36 of 2016 [F2016L00253].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning myelodysplastic syndrome (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 35 of 2016 [F2016L00252].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning myeloma—No. 39 of 2016 [F2016L00277].
Amendment Statement of Principles concerning non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma—
No. 40 of 2016 [F2016L00280].
Statement of Principles concerning adjustment disorder (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 24 of 2016 [F2016L00270].
Statement of Principles concerning adjustment disorder (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 23 of 2016 [F2016L00269].
Statement of Principles concerning benign prostatic hyperplasia (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 18 of 2016 [F2016L00242].
Statement of Principles concerning benign prostatic hyperplasia (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 17 of 2016 [F2016L00240].
Statement of Principles concerning diverticulitis disease of the colon (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 16 of 2016 [F2016L00266].
Statement of Principles concerning diverticulitis disease of the colon (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 15 of 2016 [F2016L00265].
Statement of Principles concerning eating disorder (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 14 of 2016 [F2016L00264].
Statement of Principles concerning eating disorder (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 13 of 2016 [F2016L00261].
Statement of Principles concerning Lyme disease (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 26 of 2016 [F2016L00255].
Statement of Principles concerning Lyme disease (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 25 of 2016 [F2016L00254].
Statement of Principles concerning malignant neoplasm of the endometrium (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 12 of 2016 [F2016L00244].
Statement of Principles concerning malignant neoplasm of the endometrium (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 11 of 2016 [F2016L00243].
Statement of Principles concerning myopia, hypermetropia and astigmatism (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 10 of 2016 [F2016L00246].
Statement of Principles concerning myopia, hypermetropia and astigmatism (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 9 of 2016 [F2016L00245].
Statement of Principles concerning non-melanotic malignant neoplasm of the skin (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 8 of 2016 [F2016L00241].
Statement of Principles concerning non-melanotic malignant neoplasm of the skin (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 7 of 2016 [F2016L00239].
Statement of Principles concerning polymyalgia rheumatica (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 20 of 2016 [F2016L00259].
Statement of Principles concerning polymyalgia rheumatica (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 19 of 2016 [F2016L00249].
Statement of Principles concerning systemic lupus erythematosus (Balance of Probabilities)—No. 22 of 2016 [F2016L00274].
Statement of Principles concerning systemic lupus erythematosus (Reasonable Hypothesis)—No. 21 of 2016 [F2016L00262].
Veterans’ Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme Amendment Instrument 2016—2016 No. R5 [F2016L00248].

3 Committee Reports Presented Since Last Sitting of Senate

The following reports and documents were presented and authorised for publication on the dates indicated pursuant to standing order 38(7)(a):

Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Social Services Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2015 [Provisions]—Report, dated March 2016 and submissions. [Received 10 March 2016]
Economics Legislation Committee—
Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill 2016 [Provisions]—Report, dated March 2016 and submissions. [Received 10 March 2016]

Economics References Committee—Agribusiness managed investment schemes: Bitter harvest—Report, dated March 2016, Hansard record of proceedings, documents presented to the committee, additional information and submissions. [Received 11 March 2016]


Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Water Amendment (Review Implementation and Other Measures) Bill 2015 [Provisions]—Report, dated March 2016 and submissions. [Received 10 March 2016]

4 COMMITTEES—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTINGS
Committees were authorised to meet during the sittings of the Senate, as follows:
Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 1.15 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into the financing of participants in the political process.
Finance and Public Administration References Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 1.45 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into Indigenous Advancement Strategy tendering processes.
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—public meetings today—
From 12.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the role of development partnerships in agriculture and agribusiness in promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
From 7.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into Australia’s advocacy for abolition of the death penalty.
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—public meeting on Thursday, 17 March 2016, from 3.30 pm, for the committee’s consideration of the 2015-16 additional estimates.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 1.50 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into the provisions of the Migration Amendment (Character Cancellation Consequential Provisions) Bill 2016.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 3.05 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into residential fire safety.

Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee—
Private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today—
From 7 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into the fit-out of the Australian Embassy in Doha, Qatar.
From 7.30 pm and 8.50 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into the fit-out of new leased premises for the ATO in Gosford, NSW.

Public meeting today, from 7.50 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the fit-out of new leased premises for the ATO in Gosford, NSW.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—public meeting on Wednesday, 16 March 2016, from 4.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the use of Flag of Convenience shipping in Australia.

5 VACANCY IN THE REPRESENTATION OF VICTORIA—CHOICE OF JAMES PATERSON

The President informed the Senate that he had received, through the Governor-General, from the Governor of Victoria, a copy of the certificate of the choice by the Parliament of Victoria of James Paterson to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Ronaldson.

The President tabled the copy of the certificate as follows:

Governor of Victoria
10 March 2016

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
Dunrossil Drive
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your Excellency,

I wish to advise that following the vacancy in the representation of the State of Victoria in the Senate through the resignation of Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson on 28 February 2016, I have been informed by the Hon. Bruce Atkinson, MLC, Chair of the Joint Sitting of the Houses of Victorian Parliament, that Mr James Paterson was chosen to hold the vacant place in the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Linda Dessau AM
Governor.

Senator sworn: Senator Paterson, pursuant to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, then made and subscribed the oath of allegiance at the table.
6 **HOURS OF MEETING AND ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—VARIATION**

The Attorney-General (Senator Brandis), at the request of the Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield) and pursuant to notice, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—that—

(1) The Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 have precedence over all government business until determined.

(2) On Tuesday, 15 March 2016:

(a) the hours of meeting shall be 12.30 pm to 7 pm and 7.30 pm to adjournment;

(b) the routine of business from 7.30 pm shall be government business only; and

(c) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 10.30 pm.

(3) On Wednesday, 16 March 2016:

(a) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to 7 pm and 7.30 pm to 11.10 pm;

(b) the routine of business from 7.30 pm shall be government business only; and

(c) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 10.30 pm.

(4) If by adjournment of the Senate on Wednesday, 16 March 2016, the following bills have not been finally considered:

- Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Increasing Consumer Choice) Bill 2016
- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2015-2016 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2015-2016
- Biological Control Amendment Bill 2016
- Business Services Wage Assessment Tool Payment Scheme Amendment Bill 2016
- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016
- Dairy Produce Amendment (Dairy Service Levy Poll) Bill 2016
- Law and Justice Amendment (Northern Territory Local Court) Bill 2016
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Cessation of Visa Labels) Bill 2015
- Tax Laws Amendment (Norfolk Island CGT Exemption) Bill 2016
- Territories Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and Passenger Movement Charge Amendment (Norfolk Island) Bill 2016
- Trade Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2016,

(a) on Thursday, 17 March 2016:

(i) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to adjournment,

(ii) consideration of general business and consideration of committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General’s reports under standing order 62(1) and (2) shall not be proceeded with,

(iii) the routine of business from not later than 4.30 pm shall be government business only, and

(iv) divisions may take place after 4.30 pm; and

(b) the Senate shall adjourn after it has finally considered the bills listed above in paragraph (4) only, or a motion for the adjournment is moved by a minister, whichever is the earlier.

Closure: Senator Brandis moved—That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

Senators—
Abetz  Edwards  McKim  Ryan
Back  Fawcett  Nash  Scullion
Bernardi  Fifield  O’Sullivan  Seselja
Birmingham  Hanson-Young  Parry  Siemer
Brandis  Johnston  Paterson  Simms
Bushby (Teller)  Lindgren  Payne  Sinodinos
Canavan  Ludlam  Reynolds  Waters
Colbeck  Macdonald  Rhianon  Whish-Wilson
Cormann  McGrath  Rice  Williams
Di Natale  McKenzie  Ruston

NOES, 27

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

Question agreed to.

Main question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

Senators—
Abetz  Edwards  McKim  Ryan
Back  Fawcett  Nash  Scullion
Bernardi  Fifield  O’Sullivan  Seselja
Birmingham  Hanson-Young  Parry  Siemer
Brandis  Johnston  Paterson  Simms
Bushby (Teller)  Lindgren  Payne  Sinodinos
Canavan  Ludlam  Reynolds  Waters
Colbeck  Macdonald  Rhianon  Whish-Wilson
Cormann  McGrath  Rice  Williams
Di Natale  McKenzie  Ruston

NOES, 27

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

Question agreed to.
7 HOURS OF MEETING AND ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—PROPOSED VARIATION

Leave refused: Senator Muir sought leave to move a motion to vary the order of the Senate agreed to earlier today relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business (see entry no. 6).

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Leave refused: Senator Muir sought leave to make a statement relating to the matter.

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Proposed suspension of standing orders: Senator Muir moved—that so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent him moving a motion to provide for the consideration of a matter, namely a motion to give precedence to a motion relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business.

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

Question—that the question be now put—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 38

Senators—

Abetz
Back
Bernardi
Birmingham
Brandis
Bushby
Canavan
Colbeck
Cormann
Di Natale
Edwards
Fawcett
Fifield
Hanson-Young
Johnston
Lindgren
Ludlam
Macdonald
McGrath
McKenzie (Teller)
McKim
Nash
O’Sullivan
Parry
Paterson
Payne
Reynolds
Rhiannon
Rice

Ruston
Ryan
Seselja
Stiewert
Simms
Sinodinos
Waters
Whish-Wilson
Williams


NOES, 27

Senators—

Bilyk
Brown
Bullock
Cameron
Collins
Dastyari
Day
Gallacher
Gallagher
Ketter
Lambie
Lazarus
Leyonhjelm
Lines
Ludwig
Marshall
McAllister
McEwen
Moore
Muir
O’Neill

Peris
Polley
Singh
Urquhart (Teller)
Wang
Wong

Question agreed to.

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

The Senate divided—

AYES, 25

Senators—

Bilyk
Brown
Bullock
Cameron
Collins
Dastyari
Day
Gallacher
Ketter
Lambie
Lazarus
Leyonhjelm
Lines
Ludwig
Marshall
McAllister
Moore
Muir
O’Neill

Peris
Polley
Singh
Urquhart (Teller)
Wang
Wong


Question negatived.

Leave refused: Senator Leyonhjelm sought leave to move a motion to vary the order of the Senate agreed to earlier today relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business (see entry no. 6).

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Proposed suspension of standing orders: Senator Leyonhjelm, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—that so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent him moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate, namely a motion to give precedence to a motion relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—that the question be now put—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 38

Senators—

Abetz
Back
Bernardi
Birmingham
Brandis
Bushby
Canavan
Colbeck
Cormann
Di Natale

Edwards
Fawcett
Fifield
Hanson-Young
Johnston
Lindgren
Ludlam
Macdonald
McGrath
McKenzie (Teller)

McKim
Nash
O'Sullivan
Parry
Payne
Reynolds
Rhiannon
Rice
Ruston

NOES, 38

Senators—

Bullock
Cameron
Collins
Dastyari
Gallacher
Gallagher

Ketter
Lambie
Lazarus
Leyonhjelm
Lines
Ludwig

Marshall
McAllister
McEwen
Moore
Muir
O'Neill

Peris
Singh
Sterle
Urquhart (Teller)
Wang
Wong

NOES, 24

Question agreed to.

Question—that the motion to suspend standing orders be agreed to—put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 24

Senators—

Bullock
Cameron
Collins
Dastyari
Gallacher
Gallagher
Ketter
Lambie
Lazarus
Leyonhjelm
Lines
Ludwig
Marshall
McAllister
McEwen
Moore
Muir
McEwen
Sterle
Urquhart (Teller)
Singh
Peris

NOES, 38

Senators—

Abetz
Back
Bernardi
Birmingham
Brandis
Bushby
Canavan
Colbeck
Cormann
Di Natale
Edwards
Fawcett
Fifield
Hanson-Young
Johnston
Lindgren
Macdonald
McGrath
McKenzie (Teller)
McKim
Nash
O’Sullivan
Parry
Paterson
Payne
Reynolds
Rhiannon
Rice
Ruston
Ruston
Ryan
Seszela
Siewert
Simms
Simodinos
Waters
Whish-Wilson
Williams
Xenophon

Question negatived.

Leave refused: The Leader of the Glenn Lazarus Team (Senator Lazarus) sought leave to move a motion to vary the order of the Senate agreed to earlier today relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business (see entry no. 6).

An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

Proposed suspension of standing orders: Senator Lazarus, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent him moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate, namely a motion to give precedence to a motion relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business.

Ruling of President: The President, after receiving submissions from senators and in accordance with earlier rulings made by himself and Presidents Hogg, Calvert and Sibraa, ruled that further motions for the suspension of standing orders subsequent to the motion of Senator Lazarus would not be in order. The majority of the Senate had determined a motion to vary the hours of meeting and routine of business and had also declined to suspend standing orders to vary this order in its earlier votes. Requests should not be capable of being repeatedly made, because this would provide a means of permanently obstructing the business of the Senate.

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

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

**AYES, 38**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Senators</th>
<th>Abetz</th>
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<th>McKim</th>
<th>Ruston</th>
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<td>McKenzie (Teller)</td>
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**NOES, 25**

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<th>Ketter</th>
<th>Marshall</th>
<th>Peris</th>
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<td>Ludwig</td>
<td>O’Neill</td>
<td>Wong</td>
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**Question agreed to.**

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

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 25**

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**Question negatived.**

*Statement by leave:* The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), by leave, made a statement relating to the matter.
8 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2016
Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Attorney-General (Senator Brandis)—That this bill be now read a second time.
Debate resumed.
Senator Collins moved the following amendment:
At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate is of the opinion that there is a need to reform Australia’s political donation system by lowering the disclosure threshold, banning foreign donations, restricting anonymous donations and preventing donation splitting to avoid disclosure”.
At 2 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Collins was speaking.

9 QUESTIONS
Questions without notice were answered.
Leave refused: The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) sought leave to table a document.
An objection was raised and leave was not granted.
Further questions without notice were answered.

10 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—FAIR WORK COMMISSION—VICE PRESIDENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—DOCUMENT
The Minister for Employment (Senator Cash), by leave, made a statement relating to the tabling of the report of inquiry into complaints about the Honourable Vice President Michael Lawler of the Fair Work Commission and related matters, and tabled the following document:
Inquiry into complaints about the Honourable Vice President Michael Lawler of the Fair Work Commission and related matters—Report by the Honourable Peter Heerey, AM, QC [Redacted version].

11 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS
The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), pursuant to standing order 74, asked the Minister for the Arts (Senator Fifield) and the Minister representing the Prime Minister (Senator Brandis) for explanations of answers not being provided to questions on notice nos 2820 and 2876 (notice given 16 December 2015) relating to funding within the Arts portfolio and to freedom of information requests.
Senators Fifield and Brandis provided explanations.
Senator Wong moved—That the Senate take note of the explanations.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

12 MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS
Senator Polley moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Regional Development (Senator Nash) to questions without notice asked by Senators Lines and Ketter today relating to hospital funding.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
Senator Whish-Wilson moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Cabinet Secretary (Senator Sinodinos) to a question without notice asked by Senator Whish-Wilson today relating to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Question put and passed.

13 NOTICES

Senators Bilyk and Polley: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
   (i) the 6th National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is being held on Friday, 18 March 2016,
   (ii) this annual day is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools, and encourages all students to ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond,
   (iii) cyberbullying is a serious concern for young Australians, and it can happen at any time where there is access to online technology, and
   (iv) everyone has a role to play to keep children safe from bullying and violence; and
(b) calls on the Government to urgently act to legislate against ‘revenge porn’, which is extremely distressing, demeaning and can lead to real world violence and harassment. (general business notice of motion no. 1075)

The Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield): To move on the next day of sitting—That consideration of the business before the Senate on Wednesday, 16 March 2016 be interrupted at approximately 5 pm, but not so as to interrupt a senator speaking, to enable Senator Paterson to make his first speech without any question before the chair.

Senator Singh: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
   (i) 14 March 2016 marks Commonwealth Day for 2.2 billion people living in 53 countries,
   (ii) in 1987, when Commonwealth leaders met in Vancouver, more than 350 000 cases of polio paralysed and killed children in 125 countries annually, and in the following year, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was formed, bringing together Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], the World Health Organization [WHO] and the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund [UNICEF] united in a common cause: to eradicate polio once and for all,
   (iii) as India and Nigeria have recently been removed from the list of polio endemic countries, polio remains endemic in just one Commonwealth country – Pakistan – where progress has been significant, with 80 per cent fewer cases being recorded in 2015 compared to 2014,
   (iv) in the words of the new Commonwealth Secretary-General Designate, The Right Honourable Baroness Patricia Scotland, the eradication of polio is ‘an exemplary example of what the Commonwealth can do when it collaborates and works together with focus to bring something about’,
   (v) a funding gap of $1.5 billion for implementing the GPEI’s current strategic plan threatens to derail this progress,
(vi) investment in polio eradication will yield the ultimate return for future generations of children who will be free of this devastating disease while global health will benefit from the program’s knowledge and experience, as was demonstrated in 2014 when the use of polio infrastructure enabled Nigeria to stop the spread of Ebola,

(vii) the full eradication of polio could be the first milestone success of the new Sustainable Development Goals, providing the blueprint for reaching children with life-saving interventions in some of the most remote, vulnerable and socially-excluded communities and living up to the theme of Commonwealth Day 2016 of ‘An Inclusive Commonwealth’, and

(viii) at the most recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Malta in November 2015, Commonwealth leaders, including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, agreed to accelerate action and renew financial support to eradicate polio once and for all; and

(b) calls on the Australian Government to follow through on this renewed commitment and pledge to the GPEI. (*general business notice of motion no. 1076*)

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

(a) notes that:

(i) clean energy is the key to Australia’s future prosperity and supports the jobs, investment and technological innovation that is created in Australia through clean energy technologies,

(ii) Australia was on track to achieve around 28 per cent of its electricity sourced from clean energy in the year 2020 until the Government and Opposition voted together to lower the target to 23 per cent in June 2015, and

(iii) as a result of Australia being the first country in the world to have reduced its legislated renewable energy aspirations, no wave of new jobs and construction have commenced 9 months after the passage of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Act 2015* (the Act), despite significant global capital seeking to invest in the energy systems of the future; and

(b) urges energy retailers, Origin Energy and Energy Australia to make their intentions clear whether they will facilitate the imminent construction of new Australian clean energy projects or whether they will pass the penalty price for non-compliance with the Act onto their Australian customers. (*general business notice of motion no. 1077*)

Senator Wang, the Minister for Rural Health (Senator Nash), the Minister for Women (Senator Cash) and Senators Moore and Peris: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes the tragic loss of Sarah Tait, Australian rowing champion, following her battle with cervical cancer;

(b) expresses sincere condolences to Sarah’s husband Bill and their children Leila and Luca, Sarah’s parents Simon and Barbara, and Sarah’s family and friends for their loss;
(c) expresses gratitude for the important services and support that Sarah and her family received from the Royal Women’s Hospital in Victoria, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Caritas Christi Hospice that helped Sarah maintain her quality of life with her children and family;

(d) acknowledges that Sarah Tait is an inspiration to all Australians, especially Australian women in sport, having achieved great personal and professional heights, including:

(i) receiving a silver medal in 2000 at the age of 17 for her efforts as part of the Junior Women’s Four at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Croatia,

(ii) competing in the 2004 Athens and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games,

(iii) winning the World Championships in Japan as part of the Women’s Eight in 2005, and winning a silver medal as part of a pair at that same regatta,

(iv) securing a bronze medal in the coxless pairs at the World Rowing Championships held in Slovenia in 2011,

(v) winning a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games following the birth of her daughter, Leila,

(vi) captaining the Australian women’s rowing team at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games,

(vii) captaining the 2010 and 2011 World Rowing Championships, and

(viii) being a positive role model for mothers in professional sport and inspiring Rowing Australia’s family friendly policy, and more broadly cultivating a more family friendly environment for coaches and athletes in competitive sport;

(e) notes that cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women, and is sadly one of the most difficult cancers to detect; and

(f) acknowledges that the Minister for Health (Ms Ley) will announce the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) advisory board members in the near future, and that the appointment of board members to the MRFF will enable the consideration of further research into the detection, prevention and treatment of rare types of cervical cancer. (general business notice of motion no. 1078)

Senator Hanson-Young: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that the week beginning 13 March 2015 marks the 5th anniversary of the beginning of the Syria crisis, and that since the conflict began:

(i) between 250,000 and 470,000 people have lost their lives, and 11 million people have been forced to flee their homes, including 4.5 million refugees,

(ii) the Syrian Government has forcibly ‘disappeared’ at least 65,000 people, including human rights activists and aid workers,

(iii) all parties to the conflict have committed war crimes and human rights violations, including murder, torture and rape,

(iv) many of those remaining in Syria are struggling to survive without access to lifesaving humanitarian aid due to the actions of warring parties and insufficient funding for humanitarian appeals,

(v) the recent cessation of hostilities and peace talks are a cause for cautious optimism, but the situation on the ground in Syria remains dire for millions of people,
(vi) the Australian Government has provided $213 million in aid to the people of Syria since 2011,

(vii) the Australian Government in 2015 committed to resettle 12 000 refugees from Syria and Iraq, only 26 of whom have been settled in Australia to date, and

(viii) the Australian Government played an important role during 2013-14 on the United Nations Security Council negotiation resolutions aimed at improving humanitarian access for vulnerable populations within Syria; and

(b) calls on the Turnbull Government to:

(i) increase diplomatic efforts to demand all parties to the conflict abide by the rules of war and protect civilians,

(ii) provide further humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people inside Syria, as well as refugees who have fled the conflict and are now in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other countries in the region,

(iii) expedite the resettlement of the 12 000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees that the Australian Government committed to resettle in 2015,

(iv) take all possible steps to avoid harming civilians during any Australian military operations, and

(v) work to ensure people fleeing Syria are treated fairly, including by increasing assistance to refugee-hosting countries. (general business notice of motion no. 1079)

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

(a) notes that:

(i) the expensive, intrusive and ultimately pointless mandatory telecommunications data retention scheme was introduced in the 2015-16 Budget at a cost to taxpayers of $153.8 million,

(ii) mandatory data retention forces Australian Internet service providers and telecommunications carriers to retain comprehensive records on their customers’ Internet and telephone habits for a period of 2 years,

(iii) the full cost of the scheme is in excess of $300 million but costs just 15 cents per day to circumvent via simple steps such as those helpfully articulated by the Prime Minister (Mr Turnbull), and

(iv) since the Australian Labor Party supported the Government in passing the bill, the number of additional agencies requesting warrantless access to metadata has included the Australian Taxation Office, the Australian Border Force and the Victorian Racing Integrity Commissioner; and

(b) calls on the Government to repeal the scheme. (general business notice of motion no. 1080)

Senator Reynolds: To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters on its inquiry into the financing of participants in the political process be extended to 22 June 2016. (general business notice of motion no. 1081)
Senator Waters: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table, no later than 9.45 am on 17 March 2016, the following documents assembled by Dr Alex Wonhas and now held by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) or the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, relating to the restructuring of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division:

(a) the written briefing prepared in December 2015 by Dr Ken Lee, Director of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division for submission to the CSIRO executive for the ‘Deep Dive’ meeting;

(b) documents from November to December 2015 demonstrating the consultation that was undertaken with the Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship Research Program Leaders in preparing the above briefing;

(c) any written communication from Dr Alex Wonhas or Dr Larry Marshall to the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division subsequent to the briefing mentioned in paragraph (a) requesting a proposal for more extensive restructuring;

(d) documents from January 2016 demonstrating any consultation that was undertaken by Dr Ken Lee with the Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship Research Program Leaders in developing the proposal for more extensive restructuring;

(e) all written communication from December 2015 until the present between the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship and either Dr Wonhas or Dr Marshall in relation to any proposed more extensive restructuring, including:
   (i) communications detailing the scope, rationale and implications of the restructuring,
   (ii) guidelines or criteria to be used in choosing specific areas to be restructured, and
   (iii) the rationale for a reduction of 100 equivalent full-time staff;

(f) documents from December 2015 until the present demonstrating the consultation process that is being undertaken with the Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship Research Program Leaders, including guidelines or criteria being used, to determine the specific research groups and teams to be restructured;

(g) any written briefings for Dr Wonhas or Dr Marshall for the CSIRO executive meeting on or around 27 January 2016 concerning proposed restructuring in the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship;

(h) the minutes or other records of any CSIRO board meeting which considered the restructuring of the Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship;

(i) all project description and project budget documents for projects concerning the Cape Grim observing station and the associated Gas Lab analysis, for the past 5 years up to and including 2015-16; and

(j) any written communication between Dr Marshall and CSIRO staff concerning clean coal technology from November 2015 until the present. (general business notice of motion no. 1082)

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

(a) notes that:
   (i) the Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, stated on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s Q&A program that Australia is ‘losing the battle’ against global warming,
   (ii) Professor Terry Hughes has told ‘The Conversation’ that Australia can either develop new coal mines or protect the Great Barrier Reef, but ‘we can’t possibly do both’,
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(iii) coral bleaching caused by global warming has already caused the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to raise its bleaching alert to Level 2, and the United States’ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has upgraded its Coral Reef Watch warning for the far northern Great Barrier Reef to Alert Level 2, the highest threat level, and

(iv) the mining and burning of coal is driving dangerous global warming which threatens the Great Barrier Reef; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to abandon its support for the Adani mega coal mine and Abbot Point coal port expansion, and support a rapid transition to 100 per cent clean energy as soon as possible, and at least 90 per cent clean energy by 2030. (general business notice of motion no. 1083)

Senator Cameron: To move on the next day of sitting—That the resolution of the Senate of 15 March 2016 relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business for the week be amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph (4) add to the list of bills “Fair Work Amendment (Protecting Australian Workers) Bill 2016 (contingent on introduction)”; and

(b) add the following new paragraph “(4)(c) for the purposes of this order, the consideration of the Fair Work Amendment (Protecting Australian Workers) Bill 2016 be listed and considered as a government business order of the day”. (general business notice of motion no. 1084)

Senator McKim: To move on the next day of sitting—

(1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Response to Fires in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, be established to inquire into and report, on or before 30 May 2016, on the response to, and lessons learned from, recent fires in remote Tasmanian wilderness affecting the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, with particular reference to:

(a) the impact of global warming on fire frequency and magnitude;
(b) the availability and provision of financial, human and mechanical resources;
(c) the adequacy of fire assessment and modelling capacity;
(d) Australia’s obligations as State Party to the World Heritage Convention;
(e) world best practice in remote area fire management; and
(f) any related matter.

(2) That the committee consist of 6 senators, 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, 1 nominated by the Leader of the Australian Greens and 1 nominated by other parties and independent senators.

(3) That:

(a) participating members may be appointed to the committee on the nomination of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate or any minority groups or independent senators; and

(b) participating members may participate in hearings of evidence and deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of members of the committee, but may not vote on any questions before the committee.
(4) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.

(5) That the committee elect as chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Australian Greens, and elect as deputy chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

(6) That the deputy chair shall act as chair when the chair is absent from a meeting of the committee or the position of chair is temporarily vacant.

(7) That, in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, has the casting vote.

(8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee.

(9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to examine.

(10) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, the evidence taken and such interim recommendations as it may deem fit.

(11) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President.

(12) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public. (general business notice of motion no. 1085)

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

(a) notes that:
   (i) compulsory income management failed to meet policy objectives as assessed by the final evaluation of the Northern Territory Intervention,
   (ii) the cashless welfare card is a harsher form of income management, and
   (iii) the evidence suggests that the cashless welfare card will not help people struggling with substance abuse, and may hurt many people on income support; and

(b) calls on the Government to:
   (i) abandon income management,
   (ii) halt the unnecessary cashless welfare card trial in Ceduna, and
   (iii) adopt evidence-based policy that will genuinely support individuals and communities struggling with substance abuse. (general business notice of motion no. 1086)
Senators Carr, Xenophon, Madigan and Wang: To move on the next day of sitting—
That the following matter be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 August 2016:
The state of Australia’s rail industry and how government procurement, including
through the Australia Rail Track Corporation, and other policy levers can improve the
value for money, competitiveness, stability of work and capability of the rail
manufacturing industry, with specific reference to:
(a) the importance of the national rail industry as a regional employer and activity
generator, and the potential costs of further decline of rail manufacturing on the
national and relevant regional economies;
(b) the state of the rail industry, barriers to growth and improved productivity, and
the potential of Australia’s rail industry as a skills and technology incubator,
supplier of domestic rail needs as well as potential exports;
(c) the potential for Australia to benefit from a nationally-coordinated approach to
rail manufacturing standards and rail procurement projects given the size of the
Australian rail industry; and
(d) any other related matters.
Senator Back: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate recognises that:
(a) 14 March marks Commonwealth Day for 2.2 billion people living in
53 countries;
(b) in the words of the new Commonwealth Secretary-General Designate, The
Right Honourable Baroness Patricia Scotland, the eradication of polio is ‘an
exemplary example of what the Commonwealth can do when it collaborates
and works together with focus to bring something about’;
(c) in 1987, when Commonwealth leaders met in Vancouver, more than
350,000 cases of polio paralysed and killed children in 125 countries annually,
and in the following year, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was
formed, bringing together Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United
Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) united in a common cause: to
eradicate polio once and for all;
(d) today polio remains endemic in just one Commonwealth country – Pakistan –
following the removal of both India and Nigeria from the list of polio endemic
countries in recent years, and even in Pakistan progress has been significant,
with 80 per cent fewer cases being recorded in 2015 compared to 2014;
(e) a funding gap of $1.5 billion for implementing the GPEI’s current strategic plan
threatens to derail this progress;
(f) at the most recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Malta
in November 2015, Commonwealth leaders, including Prime Minister Malcolm
Turnbull, agreed to accelerate action and renew financial support to eradicate
polio once and for all;
(g) the Australian Government has committed up to $72 million to polio
eradication over 5 years, of which up to $36 million is committed to the GPEI
from 2015 to 2018;
(h) Australia has contributed a total of US$67.35 million to the GPEI from 1985 to
2014, ranking the third highest Commonwealth donor, behind the United
Kingdom and Canada;
(i) strong routine immunisation systems and national health systems are critical to
prevent polio resurgence and other communicable disease outbreaks;
(j) in addition, Australia’s core contributions of $12.4 million to the WHO for 2015-16, $21 million to UNICEF, and $250 million pledged to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance for 2016-2020, also support routine immunisation, including polio;

(k) living up to the 2016 Commonwealth Day theme ‘An Inclusive Commonwealth’, the full eradication of polio could be the first milestone success of the new Sustainable Development Goals, providing the blueprint for reaching children with life-saving interventions in some of the most remote, vulnerable and socially-excluded communities; and

(l) investment in polio eradication will yield the ultimate return – future generations of children will be free of this devastating disease while the health of the world will long benefit from the program’s knowledge and experience, as was demonstrated in 2014 when the use of polio infrastructure enabled Nigeria to stop the spread of Ebola. (general business notice of motion no. 1087)

Senators Muir, Day and Wang, the Leader of the Glenn Lazarus Team (Senator Lazarus) and Senators Lambie and Leyonhjelm: To move on the next day of sitting— That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) that the building and construction industry is a significant driver of economic activity in Australia, producing around 8 per cent of Australia’s gross domestic product,

(ii) that the building and construction industry comprises over 330,000 businesses nationwide, and directly employs over one million people, which is around 9 per cent of the total workforce,

(iii) comments by the Treasurer (Mr Morrison) in The Australian on 1 February 2016 where he stated that re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) was an important economic reform that must be passed by this Parliament,

(iv) that the Prime Minister (Mr Turnbull) has stated that re-establishing the ABCC was absolutely vital, and

(v) that it has had an opportunity to debate legislation to reinstate the ABCC but has declined to do so; and

(b) calls on the Government to amend the resolution agreed to on 15 March 2016 relating to the hours of meeting and routine of business for the week beginning 13 March 2016 by adding to the list of bills in paragraph (4) the “Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill 2013 [No. 2] and Building and Construction Industry (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013 [No. 2]”. (general business notice of motion no. 1088)

Senator Carr: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, no later than 9.30 am on Thursday, 17 March 2016:

(a) all documents that were ordered to be laid on the table by the Senate on 29 February 2016 relating to the restructuring of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division;

(b) any briefing or correspondence from the CSIRO to the Minister or the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science relating to the order for the production of documents agreed by the Senate on 24 February 2016 relating to the restructuring of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division;
(c) any briefing or correspondence from the CSIRO to the Minister or the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science relating to the orders for the production of documents agreed by the Senate on 29 February 2016 relating to the restructuring of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division; and

(d) any documents held by the CSIRO relating to the orders for the production of documents agreed by the Senate on 24 and 29 February 2016 relating to the restructuring of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere division. (general business notice of motion no. 1089)

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

(a) rejects the public interest immunity claim made by the Minister for Finance and Special Minister of State, Senator Cormann, on Thursday, 3 March 2016, asserting that the disclosure of communications between ministers, ministerial staff, departmental officers and the Australian Electoral Commission relating to changes to voting laws on the grounds ‘that this would disclose information that formed part of the deliberations of Cabinet’ and that ‘disclosure of this material would be contrary to the public interest’;

(b) further rejects the decision of the Minister to claim public interest immunity on redacted portions of other documents ‘on the grounds that some relate to Cabinet deliberations; to the commercial interests of the Commonwealth which would be harmed in the event of disclosure; and to the private information of Commonwealth officers (including junior officer information)’; and

(c) orders that there be laid on the table by the Special Minister of State, no later than noon on Thursday, 17 March 2016, all documents recording communications with the Australian Electoral Commission by:

(i) the Minister for Finance,

(ii) the Acting Special Minister of State,

(iii) the Special Minister of State, and

(iv) the Department of Finance,

relating to proposed changes to the Senate voting system, including the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill 2016, since 1 September 2015. (general business notice of motion no. 1090)

14 POSTPONEMENT

Senator Waters, by leave, moved—That business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in her name for today, proposing a reference to the Environment and Communications References Committee, be postponed till the first day of sitting in May 2016.

Question put and passed.

15 PRIVATE SENATORS’ BILLS—CONSIDERATION

The Minister for Communications (Senator Fifield) moved—That the following general business orders of the day be considered on Thursday, 17 March 2016 under the order relating to the consideration of private senators’ bills:

No. 84 Social Security Amendment (Diabetes Support) Bill 2016.

No. 68 Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Amendment Bill 2015.
Senator Simms moved the following amendment:

Omit “No. 68 (Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Amendment Bill 2015)”, substitute “No. 16 (Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2013)”. Debate ensued.

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

Main question, as amended, put and passed.

16 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator Bushby, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to the following senators for personal reasons:

(a) Senator Fierravanti-Wells from 15 to 17 March 2016; and
(b) Senator Heffernan from 15 to 18 March 2016.

Question put and passed.

Senator McEwen, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to Senator Singh for 16 and 17 March 2016, on account of parliamentary business.

Question put and passed.

17 POSTPONEMENT

Business was postponed as follows:

General business notice of motion no. 1071 standing in the names of Senators Madigan, Leyonhjelm, Day, Muir, Lambie, Wang and Xenophon and the Leader of the Glenn Lazarus Team (Senator Lazarus) for today, proposing an order for the production of documents by the Minister representing the Minister for Sport, postponed till 17 March 2016.

18 COMMITTEES—EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO REPORT

The following committees were granted extensions of time to report:

- Economics References Committee—Non-conforming building products, extended to 10 May 2016.
- Environment and Communications References Committee—Australia’s video game development industry, extended to 29 April 2016.
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—2015-16 additional estimates, extended to 24 March 2016.
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Capability of Defence’s physical science and engineering workforce, extended to 1 April 2016.

19 FAIR WORK AMENDMENT (PROTECTING AUSTRALIAN WORKERS) BILL 2016

Senator Cameron, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1042—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the Fair Work Act 2009, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

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

Question put and passed.
Bill read a first time.
Senator Cameron moved—that this bill be now read a second time.

Expansory memorandum: Senator Cameron, by leave, tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

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

20 Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee—Leave to Meet during Sittings
Senator Bushby, at the request of Senator Smith and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1073—That the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit be authorised to hold private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sittings of the Senate, from 10.30 am, as follows:
(a) Thursday, 12 May 2016, followed by a public meeting from 11 am;
(b) Thursday, 23 June 2016, followed by a public meeting from 11 am; and
(c) Thursday, 30 June 2016.
Question put and passed.

21 Indigenous Australians—Renal Health—Dialysis Services
Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 1074—That the Senate—
(a) notes that World Kidney Day, held on 10 March 2016, is an opportunity to raise awareness of kidney disease;
(b) acknowledges that:
   (i) severe kidney disease is more common among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples than non-Indigenous Australians, and
   (ii) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are more likely to die from kidney disease;
(c) recognises:
   (i) the importance of prevention and dialysis services for remote communities,
   (ii) that governments have provided funding for kidney health services in remote communities, particularly most recently in central Australia, and
   (iii) the on-going need for further prevention and dialysis services in Australia, including northern Australia; and
(d) calls on the Government to continue to invest in kidney health in Australia.
Statement by leave: The Minister for Vocational Education and Skills (Senator Ryan), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.
Question put and passed.
22 **PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED REFERENCE**

*Motion determined as not formal:* Senator Bushby, at the request of the Chair of the Education and Employment Legislation Committee (Senator McKenzie), asked that business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in the name of Senator McKenzie for today, proposing a reference to the Procedure Committee, be taken as formal.

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

23 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAXATION—TAX POLICY**

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

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

The Turnbull Government’s failure to present a tax plan to the Australian people.

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

24 **DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION**

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

- Economics References Committee—Housing affordability—Implementation of recommendations—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Social Services (Mr Porter) responding to the resolution of the Senate of 2 February 2016. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Gallagher. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Gallagher in continuation.
- Family and community services—International Day of People with Disability—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Western Australian Minister for Disability Services (Mrs Morton) responding to the resolution of the Senate of 2 February 2016. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Lines. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Lines in continuation.
- Regional Australia—Western Australia—Bushfires—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Premier of Western Australia (Mr Barnett) responding to the resolution of the Senate of 3 February 2016. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Lines and debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Back in continuation.

25 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Williams) informed the Senate that the President had received a letter requesting changes in the membership of committees.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (Senator Ruston), by leave, moved—That senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

- **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**—
  - Discharged—Senator Heffernan
Appointed—
  Senator Paterson
  Participating member: Senator Heffernan

Community Affairs References Committee—
  Discharged—
    Senator Heffernan
    Participating member: Senator Canavan
  Appointed—
    Senator Paterson
    Participating member: Senator Heffernan

Economics Legislation and References Committees—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Education and Employment Legislation and References Committees—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—
  Discharged—
    Senator Abetz
    Participating member: Senator Canavan
  Appointed—
    Senator Paterson
    Participating member: Senator Abetz

Environment and Communications References Committee—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Finance and Public Administration Legislation and References Committees—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation and References Committees—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Health—Select Committee—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Human Rights—Joint Statutory Committee—
  Discharged—Senator O’Sullivan
  Appointed—Senator Paterson

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation and References Committees—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Murray-Darling Basin Plan—Select Committee—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

National Broadband Network—Select Committee—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—
  Discharged—Senator Reynolds
  Appointed—Senator Paterson

Northern Australia—Joint Select Committee—
  Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

Publications—Standing Committee—
  Discharged—Senator Back
Appointed—Senator Paterson

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation and References Committees**—

Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

**School Funding Investment—Select Committee**—

Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

**Scrutiny of Government Budget Measures—Select Committee**—

Discharged—Senator Abetz

Appointed—

Senator Paterson

Participating member: Senator Abetz

**Trade and Investment Growth—Joint Select Committee**—

Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson

**Unconventional Gas Mining—Select Committee**—

Appointed—Participating member: Senator Paterson.

Question put and passed.

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

Pursuant to order, Senator Smith, at the request of the Chair of the Economics Legislation Committee (Senator Edwards), tabled the following report and documents:


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

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Pursuant to order, Senator Smith, at the request of the Chair of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (Senator Reynolds), tabled the following report and documents:


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

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The Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Senator Smith) tabled the following report:

The following committee report presented since the last sitting of the Senate (see entry no. 3) was considered:

Economics References Committee—Agribusiness managed investment schemes: Bitter harvest—Report. Motion to take note of report moved by the chair of the committee (Senator Ketter) and debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting. Senator Whish-Wilson in continuation.

27 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2016
Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Attorney-General (Senator Brandis)—That this bill be now read a second time—and on the amendment moved by Senator Collins (see entry no. 8).

Debate resumed.
At 10.30 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Ludlam was speaking.

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

Debate ensued.

The Senate continued to sit till midnight—
WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016 AM

The Senate adjourned at 12.12 am till Wednesday, 16 March 2016 at 9.30 am.

29 ATTENDANCE
Present, all senators except Senators Fierravanti-Wells* and Heffernan* (*on leave).

ROSEMARY LAING
Clerk of the Senate

Printed by authority of the Senate