THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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Contents

1 Meeting of Senate ........................................................................................................ 2273
2 Documents................................................................................................................... 2273
3 Committee Report Presented Since Last Sitting of Senate .................................. 2274
4 Senator Lazarus—Resignation from Palmer United Party—Statement by Leave .......................................................... 2274
5 Documents................................................................................................................... 2275
6 Committees—Leave to Meet During Sitting............................................................ 2277
7 Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2014 ................... 2277
8 Questions.................................................................................................................. 2277
9 Motions to Take Note of Answers........................................................................... 2277
10 Notices...................................................................................................................... 2278
11 Private Senators’ Bills—Consideration................................................................. 2282
12 Leave of Absence ..................................................................................................... 2283
13 Postponements......................................................................................................... 2283
14 Committee—Extension of Time to Report .............................................................. 2283
15 Environment and Communications References Committee—Reference .......... 2283
16 Routine of Business—Variation—Valedictory Statements.................................... 2284
17 Consideration of Legislation.................................................................................... 2284
18 Health—Food Labelling Standards ....................................................................... 2284
19 Foreign Affairs—Tibetan Uprising—56th Anniversary......................................... 2284
20 Discussion of Matter of Public Importance—Education—Higher Education Reforms ........................................................................................................ 2285
21 Documents—Consideration..................................................................................... 2285
22 Governor-General’s Message—Assent to Laws..................................................... 2285
24 Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Report—Tribunals Amalgamation Bill 2014 ................................................................. 2286
25 Order of Business—Rearrangement........................................................................ 2286
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment Bill 2015</td>
<td>2286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Fair Work Amendment Bill 2014</td>
<td>2286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
<td>2287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>2287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 **MEETING OF SENATE**

The Senate met at 10 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Stephen Parry) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

2 **DOCUMENTS**

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

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

**Auditor-General**—Audit reports for 2014-15—

No. 25—Performance audit—Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement: Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

No. 26—Performance audit—Administration of the Medical Specialist Training Program: Department of Health. [Received 10 March 2015]

No. 27—Performance audit—Electronic health records for Defence personnel: Department of Defence. [Received 10 March 2015]


**Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011**—Carbon Farming Initiative Review—Report for 2014 on the operation of the Act. [Received 10 March 2015]

**Crimes Act 1914**—Report for 2013-14 on the Ombudsman’s activities in monitoring controlled operations conducted by the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Federal Police.

**Departmental and agency contracts for 2014**—Letter of advice, pursuant to the order of the Senate of 20 June 2001, as amended—Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

**Health**—Uncommon cancers—Unicorn Foundation—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Health (Ms Ley), dated 23 February 2015, responding to the resolution of the Senate of 26 November 2014.

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 July to 31 December 2014—Statement of compliance, pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended—Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security. [Received 10 March 2015]

**Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**—Royal Commission—Report of case study no. 5—Response of The Salvation Army to child sexual abuse at its boys homes in New South Wales and Queensland, dated February 2015.

**Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board**—Report for 2012-13. [Received 10 March 2015]

**Migration Act 1958**—Reports for the period 1 July to 31 October 2014—

Section 91Y—Protection visa processing taking more than 90 days.

Section 440A—Conduct of Refugee Review Tribunal reviews not completed within 90 days.

**Official visit to France, Germany and the United Kingdom**—Report on the visit by the President of the Senate, 10 to 19 January 2015.

Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Report for 2013-14 on the operations of private health insurers. [Received 10 March 2015]

Regional Australia—South Australian Country Fire Service—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Premier of South Australia (Mr Weatherill), dated 8 March 2015, responding to the resolution of the Senate of 10 February 2015.


3 COMMITTEE REPORT PRESENTED SINCE LAST SITTING OF SENATE

The following report and documents were presented and authorised for publication on 13 March 2015 pursuant to standing order 38(7)(a):


4 SENATOR LAZARUS—RESIGNATION FROM PALMER UNITED PARTY—STATEMENT BY LEAVE

Senator Lazarus, by leave, made a statement informing the Senate of his resignation from the Palmer United Party and his new status as an independent senator for Queensland.
5 DOCUMENTS

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

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


Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994—

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Instrument No. 4 (MRL Standard) Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 2) [F2015L00275].

Veterinary Chemical Products (Excluded Stockfood Non-active Constituents) Repeal Order 2015 [F2015L00279].


Civil Aviation Act 1988—

Civil Aviation Regulations 1988—

Authorisation amendment — pilot maintenance on class B rotorcraft—CASA 20/15 [F2015L00276].

Permission and direction — helicopter operations by Northshore Holdings (NT) Pty Limited, trading as Remote Helicopters Australia—CASA 293/14 [F2015L00024]—Revised explanatory statement.

Permission and direction — helicopter operations by Wellspring Rural Services Pty Ltd, trading as Northern Helicopter Charter—CASA 295/14 [F2014L01777]—Revised explanatory statement.

Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 and Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998—Exemption and permission — winching operations and emplaning and deplaning—CASA EX43/15 [F2015L00269].


Corporations Act 2001—ASIC Class Orders—
CO 15/52 [F2015L000281].
CO 15/153 [F2015L00282].

Customs Act 1901—Customs (Prohibited Exports) Amendment (Chemicals) Regulation 2015—Select Legislative Instrument 2015 No. 13 [F2015L00246].

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999—List of CITES Species – Declaration of a stricter domestic measure in accordance with section 303CB [F2015L00277].


Fisheries Management Act 1991—
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003—
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Overcatch and Undercatch Determination 2015 [F2015L00270].
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Total Allowable Catch (Non-Quota Species) Determination 2015 [F2015L00271].
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Total Allowable Catch (Quota Species) Determination 2015 [F2015L00272].
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005—Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Overcatch and Undercatch Determination 2015 [F2015L00268].


Superannuation Act 2005—Eleventh Amendment of the Superannuation (PSSAP) Trust Deed [F2015L00278].

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997—Determination under paragraph 15(1)(d)—No. 1 of 2015 [F2015L00274].

Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986—
Statements of Principles concerning herpes zoster—
No. 47 of 2015 [F2015L00253].
No. 48 of 2015 [F2015L00254].
Statements of Principles concerning malignant neoplasm of the salivary gland—
No. 57 of 2015 [F2015L00252].
No. 58 of 2015 [F2015L00261].
Statements of Principles concerning neoplasm of the pituitary gland—
No. 53 of 2015 [F2015L00259].
No. 54 of 2015 [F2015L00260].
Statements of Principles concerning Paget’s disease of bone—
No. 49 of 2015 [F2015L00255].
No. 50 of 2015 [F2015L00256].
Statements of Principles concerning plantar fasciitis—
No. 51 of 2015 [F2015L00257].
No. 52 of 2015 [F2015L00258].
Statements of Principles concerning seborrhoeic keratosis—
No. 55 of 2015 [F2015L00250].
No. 56 of 2015 [F2015L00251].
Statements of Principles concerning spondylolisthesis and spondyloysis—
No. 59 of 2015 [F2015L00262].
No. 60 of 2015 [F2015L00263].

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended:

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 July to 31 December 2014—Statements of compliance—
Attorney-General’s portfolio.
Infrastructure and Regional Development portfolio.

6 COMMITTEES—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Commitees were authorised to hold public meetings during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 18 March 2015, as follows:
Abbott Government’s Budget Cuts—Select Committee—from 12.30 pm.
Economics Legislation Committee—from 9.30 am, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the Reserve Bank Amendment (Australian Reconstruction and Development Board) Bill 2013.

7 MIGRATION AMENDMENT (PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2014

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield)—That this bill be now read a second time.
Debate resumed.
At 2 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Ruston was speaking.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

9 MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS

Senator O’Neill moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Employment (Senator Abetz) to a question without notice asked by Senator Carr today relating to higher education reforms.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne) moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs (Senator Ronaldson) to a question without notice asked by Senator Milne today relating to the Renewable Energy Target.

Question put and passed.

10 NOTICES

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield): To move on the next day of sitting—That—

(a) the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool Payment Scheme Bill 2014 and the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool Payment Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2014 be recommitted, and that consideration of the bills in committee of the whole be made an order of the day; and

(b) the committee of the whole resume consideration of the bills in the form in which they stood immediately prior to their being negatived in committee on 24 November 2014.

Senators Carr, Lazarus, Muir, Rhiannon, Xenophon, Madigan, Lambie and Wang: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate calls on the Government to commit to the allocation and release of $150 million in funding for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy in 2015-16 that was included in the 2014-15 Budget.

(general business notice of motion no. 643)

Senator Xenophon: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following matters be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by 10 August 2015:

(a) guidance set out by the International Civil Aviation Organisation regarding acceptable structures and processes for establishing nationality, corporate and regulatory control, and model legislation;

(b) the structures and processes recognised by Australia, including the legislative basis for those structures and processes, and how they are applied in current Australian air service agreements;

(c) the extent to which Australia’s national interest is considered when accepting arrangements for corporate and regulatory control that do not invoke consensus among our international partners;

(d) the effectiveness of Australia’s current legislative framework in designating and regulating Australian international airlines, including achieving a balance between parliamentary oversight and departmental discretion;

(e) the effectiveness of the transparency and review processes regarding the designation and regulation of Australian international airlines;

(f) the effectiveness of Australia’s aviation and broader legislative frameworks in maximising the economic and social contribution of Australia’s international airlines;

(g) the extent to which Australia’s national interest needs an Australian international airline with viable standalone capacity to reach all areas of strategic interest to Australia;

(h) the extent to which Australia’s aviation and broader legislative frameworks support the operations of Australian international airlines; and

(i) any related matters.
Senator Xenophon: To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bills be referred to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 23 April 2015:

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

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

(a) notes that:
   (i) the Government has committed a further 300 troops to the war in Iraq, in addition to the special forces and air force personnel already deployed,
   (ii) this increase in troop numbers was announced by the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Mr Key), rather than our own Prime Minister (Mr Abbott),
   (iii) neither the Australian Parliament nor the Australian people were consulted about the major increase in Australian soldiers in Iraq, and
   (iv) the latest polling from Essential Research shows that the majority of Australians disapprove of sending more Australian soldiers to Iraq; and

(b) calls on the Australian Government to:
   (i) support legislation that enables the Parliament to decide when Australian troops are deployed overseas, and
   (ii) outline the support framework it has in place to support both the mental and physical health needs of returning service men and women. (general business notice of motion no. 644)

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

(a) welcomes the South Australian Government’s Royal Commission into the Nuclear Fuel Cycle;

(b) notes that the Prime Minister (Mr Abbott) said recently ‘it’s important to see how South Australia can benefit from greater participation in the nuclear cycle’; and

(c) informs the South Australian Royal Commission of this resolution. (general business notice of motion no. 645)

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

(a) notes:
   (i) the insensitive remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr Abbott) in which he called remote aboriginal communities a ‘lifestyle choice’,
   (ii) the anguish that the proposed closure of remote communities is causing Aboriginal people in Western Australia, and
   (iii) the importance of remote communities for cultural, social and emotional wellbeing, and the role these communities play in land management; and

(b) calls on:
   (i) the Prime Minister to apologise for his remarks,
   (ii) the Federal Government to reinstate the Municipal and Essential Services funding to Western Australia, and
   (iii) the Barnett Government to abandon its plan to close Aboriginal communities and instead to work with those communities to deliver essential services and support. (general business notice of motion no. 646)
Senator Ludlam: To move on the next day of sitting—That—

(a) the Senate notes that:

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

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

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

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

(b) there be laid on the table by the Attorney-General, no later than noon on Thursday, 19 March 2015, the report on the operation of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* for the year ended 30 June 2014. (general business notice of motion no. 647)

Senator Siewert: To move on 19 March 2015—That the following matter be referred to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report by 18 June 2015:

The impact on service quality, efficiency and sustainability of recent Commonwealth Indigenous Advancement Strategy tendering processes by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, with particular regard to:

(a) the extent of consultation with service providers concerning the size, scope and nature of services tendered, determination of outcomes and other elements of service and contract design;

(b) the effect of the tendering timeframe and lack of notice on service collaboration, consortia and the opportunity for innovative service design and delivery;

(c) the evidence base and analysis underlying program design;

(d) the clarity of information provided to prospective tenderers concerning service scope and outcomes;

(e) the opportunities created for innovative service design and delivery, and the extent to which this was reflected in the outcomes of the tender process;

(f) the number of non-compliant projects, the nature of the non-compliance, if and how they were assisted, and how many of these were successful;

(g) analysis of the types, size and structures of organisations which were successful and unsuccessful under this process;

(h) the implementation and extent of compliance with Commonwealth Grant Guidelines;

(i) the potential and likely impacts on service users concerning service delivery, continuity, quality and reliability;

(j) the framework and measures in place, if any, to assess the impacts of these reforms on service user outcomes and service sustainability and effectiveness;
(k) the information provided to tenderers about how decisions are made, feedback mechanisms for unsuccessful tender applicants, and the participation of independent experts in tender review processes to ensure fairness and transparency;

(l) the impact on advocacy and policy services across the sector;

(m) factors relating to the efficient and effective collection and sharing of data on outcomes within and across program streams to allow actuarial analysis of program, cohort and population outcomes to be measured and evaluated;

(n) the extent of contracts offered, and the associated conditions, to successful applicants; and

(o) any other related matters.

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

(a) notes that:

(i) a group of western New South Wales councils, accounting for two-thirds of the state’s area, are working together on a solar initiative, known as the Solar Energy eXchange Initiative, that, if adopted, would result in each local government area installing about half a megawatt of photovoltaic panels at various sites in their locality,

(ii) the initiative involves a number of distinct projects involving different combinations of solar and storage technologies to help assess what would most effectively meet the energy needs of western New South Wales,

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

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

(b) urges all levels of government to acquaint themselves with the initiative and consider how they can support this project. (general business notice of motion no. 648)

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne): To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to provide for the intergenerational report to be prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Office, and for related purposes. Charter of Budget Honesty Amendment (Intergenerational Report) Bill 2015. (general business notice of motion no. 649)

Senators Xenophon, Carr, Madigan, Muir and Wright: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Monday, 23 March 2015:

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

(b) by the Minister for Finance, any correspondence since 1 July 2014 between the Minister and the Prime Minister regarding the ATS. (general business notice of motion no. 650)

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

(a) notes:

(i) that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has repeatedly stated that the most serious threat to the reef is climate change,
(ii) that the Abbot Point coal port expansion would facilitate the export of up to 180 million tonnes of coal per year,

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

(iv) the Dump My Bank campaign by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition to help customers divest from the big four banks; and

(b) congratulates former customers of the big four Australian banks who have divested because the big four Australian banks have not ruled out investing in the Abbot Point coal port expansion which would accelerate the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef. (general business notice of motion no. 651)

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield): To move on the next day of sitting—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

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

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield): To move on the next day of sitting—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

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

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield): To move on the next day of sitting—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2015, allowing it to be considered during this period of sittings.

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield): To move on the next day of sitting—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

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

Documents: Senator Fifield tabled the following documents:


11 PRIVATE SENATORS’ BILLS—CONSIDERATION

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield) moved—That general business order of the day no. 52 (Defence Amendment (Fair Pay for Members of the ADF) Bill 2014) be considered on Thursday, 19 March 2015 under the temporary order relating to the consideration of private senators’ bills.

Question put and passed.
12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Senator Bushby, by leave, moved—that leave of absence be granted to the following senators for personal reasons:
(a) Senator Cash for 16 and 17 March 2015; and
(b) Senator Lambie for today.
Question put and passed.
Senator McEwen, by leave, moved—that leave of absence be granted to Senator Dastyari for today, for personal reasons.
Question put and passed.

13 POSTPONEMENTS
Business was postponed as follows:
General business notice of motion no. 640 standing in the name of Senator O’Sullivan for today, relating to the uranium export industry, postponed till 17 March 2015.
General business notice of motion no. 642 standing in the name of Senator Hanson-Young for today, relating to voting on marriage-related legislation, postponed till 18 March 2015.

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

15 ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REFERENCE
Senator Xenophon, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1—that the following matters be referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 June 2015:
(a) the quantum of stormwater resource in Australia and impact and potential of optimal management practices in areas of flooding, environmental impacts, waterway management and water resource planning;
(b) the role of scientific advances in improving stormwater management outcomes and integrating these into policy at all levels of government to unlock the full suite of economic benefits;
(c) the role of stormwater as a positive contributor to resilient and desirable communities into the future, including ‘public good’ and productivity outcomes;
(d) model frameworks to develop economic and policy incentives for stormwater management;
(e) model land use planning and building controls to maximise benefits and minimise impacts in both new and legacy situations;
(f) funding models and incentives to support strategic planning and investment in desirable stormwater management, including local prioritisation;
(g) asset management and operations to encourage efficient investments and longevity of benefit;
(h) the role of innovation in supporting desirable outcomes and transparent
decision-making, including access to information and novel technologies for
planning, design and implementation; and

(i) any related matters.

Question put and passed.

16 ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—VARIATION—VALEDICTORY STATEMENTS
The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), pursuant to notice of
motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of
motion no. 1—That on Monday, 23 March 2015 consideration of the business before
the Senate shall be interrupted at 5 pm, but not so as to interrupt a senator speaking, to
enable valedictory statements to be made relating to Senator Lundy.

Question put and passed.

17 CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION
The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), pursuant to notice of
motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of
motion no. 2—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not
apply to the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment Bill
2015, allowing it to be considered during this period of sittings.

Question put and passed.

18 HEALTH—FOOD LABELLING STANDARDS
Senator O’Sullivan, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 633—That the Senate—

(a) recognises and applauds the Federal Government’s move to introduce better
country of origin labelling rules to give Australians a clearer understanding of
where their food originates; and

(b) further recognises that the Minister for Agriculture (Mr Joyce) and the Minister
for Industry and Science (Mr Macfarlane) have been tasked with developing a
new country of origin labelling framework that will improve clarity for
consumers.

Statement by leave: The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne), by leave,
made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

19 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—TIBETAN UPRISING—56TH ANNIVERSARY
Motion determined as not formal: Senator Hanson-Young requested that general
business notice of motion no. 641 standing in her name for today, relating to the
56th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising, be taken as formal.

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

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

Proposed suspension of standing orders: Senator Hanson-Young, at the request of the
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Milne) and pursuant to contingent notice,
moved—that so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Senator
Milne moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate, namely a
motion to give precedence to general business notice of motion no. 641.
Debate ensued.
Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 11

Senators—

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

NOES, 33

Senators—

Bilyk  Gallacher  McEwen (Teller)  Reynolds
Birmingham  Ketter  McGrath  Ruston
Brown  Lines  McKenzie  Ryan
Bullock  Ludwig  Moore  Seselja
Bushby  Lundey  Muir  Sterle
Canavan  Macdonald  O’Neill  Wang
Edwards  Madigan  O’Sullivan  Williams
Fawcett  Marshall  Peris  Wong
Fifield

Question negatived.

20 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EDUCATION—HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS

The Deputy President (Senator Marshall) informed the Senate that Senator Moore had proposed that the following matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion:

The Abbott Government’s shameful attempt to hold the jobs of 1 700 scientists and the future of Australian research hostage in pursuit of university fee deregulation.

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

21 DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION

The following document tabled earlier today (see entry no. 2) was considered:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 25 of 2014-15—Performance audit—Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement: Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Di Natale and debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Siewert in continuation.

22 GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S MESSAGE—ASSENT TO LAWS

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was reported, informing the Senate that he had assented to the following laws:

5 March 2015—Message No. 4—

Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2015 (Act No. 11, 2015)
Crimes Legislation Amendment (Psychoactive Substances and Other Measures) Act 2015 (Act No. 12, 2015)
23 **ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—REPORT—AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS COMMISSION AMENDMENT (CORPORATIONS AND MARKETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ABOLITION) BILL 2014**

Pursuant to order, Senator Fawcett, 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 Fawcett.

24 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—REPORT—TRIBUNALS AMALGAMATION BILL 2014**

Pursuant to order, Senator Fawcett, at the request of the Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Macdonald), tabled the following report and documents:


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

25 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT**

The Minister for Human Services (Senator Payne) moved—That—

(a) government business order of the day no. 1 (Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2014) be postponed till the next day of sitting; and

(b) intervening business be postponed till after consideration of the government business order of the day relating to the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment Bill 2015.

Question put and passed.

26 **NATIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING REGULATOR AMENDMENT BILL 2015**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield)—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 Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) the bill was read a third time.

27 **FAIR WORK AMENDMENT BILL 2014**

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

Debate resumed.

*At 9.50 pm:* Debate was interrupted.
28 ADJOURNMENT
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Peris) proposed the question—That the Senate
do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
The Senate adjourned at 10.29 pm till Tuesday, 17 March 2015 at 12.30 pm.

29 ATTENDANCE
Present, all senators except Senators Cash*, Lambie* and Smith* (*on leave).

ROSEMARY LAING
Clerk of the Senate