2019

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 8

MONDAY, 29 JULY 2019

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

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

Documents in response to orders for the production of documents
1. Department of Home Affairs—Paladin contracts—Order of 4 July 2019—
   Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds) responding to the order, and attachments as follows—
   Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Home Affairs (Mr Dutton), dated 24 July 2019, and attachment. [Received 26 July 2019]
2. Rural Doctors Workforce Agency—Order of 24 July 2019—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Agriculture (Senator McKenzie), dated 25 July 2019, responding to the order, and attachment as follows—
   Rural Workforce Agency (RWA)—Health workforce needs assessment reporting template. [Received 26 July 2019]

Government documents
3. Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Act 2013—
   Review under section 4 of the Act.

The Clerk tabled the following documents pursuant to statute:

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999—List of Specimens Taken to be Suitable for Live Import Amendment (Labidochromis caeruleus and Testudo hermanni) Instrument 2019 [F2019L01002].

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013—
Commonwealth acquired shares and became a member of Donaco International Limited—23 July 2019.
Commonwealth acquired shares and became a member of Yowie Group Ltd—23 July 2019.
Commonwealth disposed of shares and ceased to be a member of Tribune Resources Ltd—23 July 2019.
3 **Ministers of State (Checks for Security Purposes) Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the second reading of the bill.

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

Debate ensued.

*Consideration of legislation:* Pursuant to order (see entry no. 9, 25 July 2019), debate was adjourned till the day fixed for the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee to report on the bill, 11 November 2019.

4 **Plebiscite (Future Migration Level) Bill 2018**

Order of the day read for the second reading of the bill.

The Leader of Pauline Hanson’s One Nation (Senator Hanson) moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

Main question put.

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 2**

Senators—

Hanson*  Roberts

**NOES, 54**

Senators—

Abetz  Dodson  McCarthy  Siewert
Antic  Duniam  McGrath  Sinodinos
Askew  Faruqi  McKim  Smith, Dean
Ayres  Fawcett  O’Sullivan  Smith, Marielle
Bernardi  Fierravanti-Wells  Paterson  Steele-John
Bilyk  Gallagher  Patrick  Steele
Birmingham  Green  Pratt  Stoker
Bragg  Griff  Rennick  Van
Brockman  Hanson-Young  Reynolds  Walsh
Carr  Hughes  Rice  Waters
Chandler  Hume  Scarr  Watt
Ciccone*  Lambie  Seselja  Whish-Wilson
Davey  Lines  Sheldon  Wong
Di Natale  McAllister

*Tellers

Question negatived.

5 **Human Services Amendment (Photographic Identification and Fraud Prevention) Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the second reading of the bill.

The Leader of Pauline Hanson’s One Nation (Senator Hanson) moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned until the next day of sitting, Senator Roberts in continuation.
6 Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty Consequential Amendments Bill 2019
Passenger Movement Charge Amendment (Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty) Bill 2019
Treasury Laws Amendment (Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty) Bill 2019

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

Message no. 28, dated 29 July 2019—A Bill for an Act to amend laws relating to certain areas and boundaries in the Timor Sea, and for related purposes.


Message no. 26, dated 25 July 2019—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation and to implement the Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Payne) moved—that these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together, and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Payne, by leave, moved—that the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the Treasury Laws Amendment (Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty) Bill 2019.

Question put and passed.

Documents: Senator Payne tabled the following documents:


Senator Payne moved—that these bills be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale) moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate, in welcoming the ratification of the Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty, calls upon the Government to apologise to the people of Timor-Leste for the unscrupulous behaviour of successive Australian governments including illegal and unethical spying operations”.

Debate ensued.

Statements by leave: The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), the Assistant Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and Financial Technology (Senator Hume) and Senator Dean Smith, by leave, made statements relating to the consideration of the bills.

Debate resumed.

At 2 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Brockman was speaking.
7 Questions
Questions without notice were answered.

8 Motions to take note of answers
The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) moved—that the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Senator Birmingham) to questions without notice asked by Senators O’Neill, Bilyk and Wong today relating to ministerial standards.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
Senator Faruqi moved—that the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Payne) to a question without notice asked by Senator Faruqi today relating to climate change, Pacific nations and the Australian aid program.
Question put and passed.

9 Notices
Senator Patrick: To move 11 sitting days after today—that the Civil Aviation (Community Service Flights - Conditions on Flight Crew Licences) Instrument 2019, made under the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998, be disallowed [F2019L00134].
Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—that there be laid on the table by the Minister for Families and Social Services, by 1 August 2019, a list of the people and organisations who form part of the Cashless Debit Card community reference groups, in each of the Cashless Debit Card trial sites. (general business notice of motion no. 60)
Senators McDonald, Rennick, McGrath, Scarr and Stoker: To move on the next day of sitting—that the Senate—
(a) notes:
   (i) that the vast majority of Queenslanders support the Carmichael Mine and opening of the Galilee Basin, and
   (ii) the billions of dollars in royalties that the resources sector delivers to Queensland (Qld), building roads, schools and hospitals for all Queenslanders; and
(b) condemns the actions and hypocrisy of extremist protestors, including:
   (i) a husband and wife who, despite being arrested nine times combined, blocked trucks leaving a concrete business that had urgent works to complete at a local nursing home,
   (ii) a 20 year old unemployed protestor who, despite growing up and living in his family’s lavish waterside mansion on the Sunshine Coast, glued himself to a Brisbane central business district road, causing disruptions for tens of thousands of Qld workers,
   (iii) the numerous protestors who have attacked and disrupted small businesses which have contracts for the construction of the Carmichael Mine and are employing hard-working Queenslanders, and
   (iv) the comments made by Brisbane City Council Greens councillor, Cr Jonathan Sri, who has praised the “effective tactics” used by the Extinction Rebellion protestors, noting particularly that “As a politician
I’m telling you that supporting disruptive civil disobedience and general strikes is probably your best option”. *(general business notice of motion no. 61)*

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

(a) notes that the United Nations (UN) resolved, in June 2019, to mark its 75th anniversary with a one-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2020 on the theme ‘The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism’;

(b) supports consideration of comprehensive reform measures for a renewal and strengthening of the UN; and

(c) consistent with a resolution passed by the European Parliament in July 2018, advocates for the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) within the UN system in order to increase the democratic character, the democratic accountability and the transparency of global governance and to allow for better citizen participation in the activities of the UN and, in particular, to contribute to the successful implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. *(general business notice of motion no. 62)*

Senator Rice: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, by no later than 9.30 am on 31 July 2019, the following documents as listed on the “indexed list of files created between 1 January and 30 June 2018” by the Department of the Environment and Energy:

(a) 18/003561 – [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation / Strategic Initiatives / New South Wales] Field Work Trip Plans – NSW;

(b) 18/004410 – [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation / Strategic Initiatives / New South Wales] Monaro Farm Visit and Engagement; and

(c) 18/004409 – [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation / Strategic Initiatives / New South Wales] Monaro Grasslands guidance. *(general business notice of motion no. 63)*

10 Postponements

Business was postponed as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of Senator Rice for 30 July 2019, proposing a reference to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee, postponed till 11 September 2019.

General business notice of motion no. 39 standing in the name of Senator Whish-Wilson for today, relating to foreign acquisitions and Moon Lake Investments, postponed till 30 July 2019.
11 Committee—Extension of time to report
Environment and Communications References Committee—Australia’s faunal extinction crisis, extended to the last sitting day of the 2020 autumn sittings.

12 Environment and Communications References Committee—Proposed reference—Ministerial standards—New South Wales grasslands
The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 4—that the following matter be referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee for inquiry and report by 10 October 2019:

(a) whether a compliance investigation by the Department of the Environment and Energy in relation to the Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands ecological community has been adversely affected by the actions of the Member for Hume, Mr Taylor, the former Minister for the Environment and Energy, Mr Frydenberg, or any other persons;

(b) whether the conduct of Mr Taylor and Mr Frydenberg, in relation to the compliance investigation, represents a proper and disinterested exercise of their responsibilities under the laws of the Commonwealth and the Statement of Ministerial Standards; and

(c) any related matters.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 32

Senators—
Ayres
Bilyk
Brown
Carr
Chisholm
Ciccone
Di Natale
Dodson
Farrell
Faruqi
Gallacher
Gallagher
Green
Hanson-Young
Lambie
McAllister
McCarthy
McKim
Patrick
Pratt
Sheldon
Siewert
Smith, Marielle
Steele-John
Sterle
Urquhart*
Walsh
Watt
Whish-Wilson
Wong

NOES, 33

Senators—
Abetz
Antic
Askiw
Bernardi
Birmingham
Bragg
Brockman
Canavan
Cash
Chandler
Colbeck
Cormann
Davey
Duniam
Fawcett
Fierravanti-Wells
Fifield
Hanson
Hughes
McGrath
McKenzie
McMahon
O’Sullivan
Paterson
Rennick
Hansons
Hughes
McGrath
McKenzie
McMahon
O’Sullivan
Paterson
Rennick

* Tellers

Question negatived.
13 Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Proposed reference—Ministerial standards—New South Wales grasslands

Senator Waters, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1—

(1) That the Senate notes that—

(a) the Statement of Ministerial Standards clearly provides that Ministers must act with honesty and integrity in all their activities, in particular, Ministers must:

(i) make arrangements to avoid conflicts arising from their private interests, also having regard to interests held by family members (paragraphs 2.9 and 2.17), and

(ii) not use public office for private purposes (paragraph 2.2),

(b) on 19 June 2019, the *Guardian* reported that, while a company part-owned by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Angus Taylor MP, and his brother, was under investigation by the Department of the Environment and Energy for alleged unlawful clearing of a critically endangered grassland species, the Minister met with departmental staff; the *Guardian* further reported on 27 June 2019, that an investigator from the office responsible for investigating the clearing allegations was present at a meeting;

(c) on 20 June 2019, the *Guardian* reported that former Minister for the Environment and Energy, Mr Josh Frydenberg MP, was approached by Mr Taylor in relation to the listing of the grassland species; according to the report, Mr Frydenberg subsequently sought advice about his powers to amend the critically-endangered listing; and

(d) these meetings raise serious questions about whether such conduct complies with the Ministerial Standards – the statement provided by Senator Cormann to the Senate on 23 July 2019 failed to satisfactorily address these questions.

(2) That the following matter be referred to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report by 10 September 2019:

(a) compliance by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Taylor, and the Treasurer, Mr Frydenberg, with the Prime Minister’s Statement of Ministerial Standards;

(b) enforcement of the Ministerial Standards including, but not limited to:

(i) actions taken in response to allegations of improper conduct or other non-compliance with the Ministerial Standards,

(ii) investigation of allegations of improper conduct or other non-compliance with the Ministerial Standards by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,

(iii) investigation of allegations of misconduct or other non-compliance with the Ministerial Standards by an independent authority,

(iv) penalties for non-compliance with the Ministerial Standards, and

(v) any policies developed to guide implementation of the Ministerial Standards;
(c) appointment of a Parliamentary Integrity Commissioner tasked with enforcing compliance with the Ministerial Standards; and
(d) any related matters.

(3) That the Senate requests that the Finance and Public Administration References Committee, as far as practicable, conduct this inquiry in conjunction with the committee’s inquiry into compliance by former Ministers of State with Ministerial Standards, referred on 22 July 2019.

Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 32

Senators—
Ayes
Bilyk
Brown
Carr
Chisholm
Ciccone
Di Natale
Dodson

McCarthy
Patrick
Pratt
Rice
Sheldon
Siewert
Stewart
McAllister

Steele-John
Sterle
Urquhart*
Walsh
Waters
Whish-Wilson
Wong

NOES, 33

Senators—
Abetz
Antic
Askew
Bernardi
Birmingham
Bragg
Brockman
Canavan
Cash

Chandler
Colbeck
Cormann
Davey
Duniam
Fawcett
Fierravanti-Wells
Fifield

Hanson
Hughes
McGra
McKenzie
McMahon
O’Sulliva
Paterson
Rennick

Reynolds
Roberts
Ruston
Scarr
Seselja
Sinodinos
Smith, Dean*
Stoker

* Tellers

Question negatived.

14 Family violence support services

Senator Waters, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 57—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) the 2019 Federal Budget allocated $10 million to “Specialised Family Violence Services”, including individual or couples counselling and dispute resolution services, as part of the funding package for domestic violence,

(ii) in April 2019, the Department of Social Services announced a targeted grants program for the delivery of Specialised Family Violence Services under the Families and Communities Program,

(iii) women’s safety organisations have consistently raised concerns that couples counselling in family violence situations can put women and children in danger, and urged that all counselling services be delivered by experienced specialist practitioners,
(iv) many of the organisations listed as eligible to apply for the Specialised Family Violence Services grants were faith-based family relationship services, rather than specialist domestic and family violence services,

(v) the initial grant guidelines for the Specialised Family Violence Services did not require applicants to demonstrate that they would meet the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions,

(vi) while updated grant guidelines encouraged applicants to partner with specialist sector organisations and to demonstrate expertise in family and domestic violence and compliance with relevant standards, the guidelines did not exclude applicants that did not have this expertise, and

(vii) significant additional funding for frontline domestic and family violence support services is essential to achieve the objectives of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to:

(i) ensure that survivors of violence are not forced to undergo counselling with perpetrators,

(ii) ensure that all government funded counselling services for family violence are delivered by expert family violence service providers in accordance with the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions,

(iii) adequately fund frontline domestic violence and crisis housing services to ensure that all women seeking safety can access these services when and where they need them, and

(iv) adequately fund the provision of safe and specific family violence support services for Aboriginal, culturally and linguistically diverse, and LGBTIQ communities.

Statements by leave: Senator Waters, the Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) and the Leader of Pauline Hanson’s One Nation (Senator Hanson), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 32

Senators—

Ayres
Bilyk
Brown
Carr
Chisholm
Ciccone
Di Natale
Dodson
Farrell
Faruqi
Gallacher
Gallagher
Green
Griff
Hanson-Young
Lambie
McCarthy
McKim
O’Neill
Patrick
Pratt
Rice
Sheldon
Siewert
Smith, Marielle
Steele-John
Sterle
Urquhart*
Walsh
Waters
Watt
Whish-Wilson
256

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NOES, 31

Senators—

Abetz
Antic
Askew
Birmingham
Brockman
Canavan
Cash

Chandler
Colbeck
Davey
Duniam
Fierravanti-Wells
Fifield
Hanson

Hughes
McGrath
McKenzie
McMahon
Paterson
Payne
Rennick

Roberts
Ruston
Scarr
Seselja
Sinodinos
Stoker

* Tellers

Question agreed to.

15 Gambling reform

Senator Griff, also on behalf of Senators Waters and Lambie, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 56—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) this month marks the 25th anniversary since the introduction of poker machines in pubs and clubs in South Australia,
(ii) despite numerous recommendations by the Commonwealth Productivity Commission (PC) and other inquiries, there has been no meaningful poker machine reform in terms of harm minimisation,
(iii) according to the PC’s 2010 report into gambling, 15% of regular poker machine players are so-called ‘problem gamblers’ with approximately 40-60% of spending on poker machines coming from ‘problem gamblers’,
(iv) the PC’s 2010 report highlighted the significant social cost of gambling – estimated at that time to be at least $4.7 billion,
(v) despite having only 0.3% of the world’s population, Australia reportedly has 6% of the world’s conventional gaming machines and 18% of its poker machines, and
(vi) Australians lose approximately $24 billion per year on gambling, a figure which is more than any other nation; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to:

(i) recognise the ongoing harm gambling causes, which varies from emotional to financial costs, and commit to meaningful harm minimisation, and
(ii) instruct the Commonwealth Productivity Commission to conduct a new inquiry to provide an updated perspective on gambling and propose relevant recommendations.

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

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 12

Senators—

Di Natale
Faruq
Griff*

Hanson-Young
Lambie
McKim

Patrick
Rice
Siewert

Steele-John
Waters
Whish-Wilson
16 Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—Reference—
Nationhood, national identity and democracy

The Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee (Senator Carr), also on behalf of Senator Stoker, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 3—That the following matter be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in May 2020:

Nationhood, national identity and democracy, with particular reference to:

(a) the changing notions of nationhood, citizenship and modern notions of the nation state in the twenty first century;

(b) rights and obligations of citizenship, including naturalisation and revocation, and the responsibility of the state to its citizens in both national and international law;

(c) social cohesion and cultural identity in the nation state;

(d) the role that globalisation and economic interdependence and economic development plays in forming or disrupting traditional notions of national identity;

(e) contemporary notions of cultural identity, multiculturalism and regionalism;

(f) the extent to which nation states balance domestic imperatives and sovereignty and international obligations; and

(g) comparison between Australian public debate and policy and international trends;

(h) any other related matters.

Statements by leave: The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale) and Senator Roberts, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

17 Nuclear power

Senator Hanson-Young, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 51—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:
    (i) constructing nuclear power stations is hugely expensive, costing billions of dollars, and often far exceeding the original estimate,
(ii) estimates indicate a typical nuclear reactor uses millions of litres of water per day,
(iii) nuclear power is up to three times the cost of renewable energy sources backed by storage,
(iv) the Fukushima disaster in 2011 resulted in the evacuation of 160,000 people and, some two years later, 81,000 evacuees remained displaced over concerns of radiological effects,
(v) the Chernobyl disaster contaminated a radius of 30 km from the reactor explosion, resulting in the forced resettlement of hundreds of thousands of people, and
(vi) Australian law prohibits the development of nuclear power; and
(b) reaffirms its support for section 140A (No approval for certain nuclear installations) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

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

Question put and passed.

18 Unanswered estimates questions on notice
Senator Patrick, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 53—that—
(a) answers to outstanding questions taken on notice in relation to the 2018-19 additional estimates and the 2019-20 Budget estimates, and which remained unanswered at the beginning of the 46th Parliament, be provided to legislation committees by 31 July 2019; and
(b) for the purposes of standing order 74(5), the day set for answering each of the unanswered questions is 31 July 2019.

Question put and passed.

19 Strategic Review of Home Affairs Portfolio—Order for production of documents
Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator Keneally and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 54—that there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs, by no later than 12.45 pm on 31 July 2019, the completed Strategic Review of the Home Affairs Portfolio as announced in the 2018-19 Budget.

Question put and passed.

20 Department of Industry, Innovation and Science—Report by Cadence Economics—Order for production of documents
The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 55—that there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, by no later than 2 pm on 1 August 2019, the report by Cadence Economics, commissioned by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, in relation to the costs and benefits of responding to climate change.

Question put and passed.
PFAS contamination

Senator Faruqi, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 58—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) the issue of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination has caused significant mental, emotional and financial stress for communities where PFAS have contaminated land and water, including the communities around the RAAF base in Williamtown in New South Wales, the Oakey Army Aviation Centre in Queensland, and RAAF Base Tindal at Katherine in the Northern Territory,

(ii) it has been more than 7 months since the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade tabled its report into the management of PFAS contamination in and around Defence bases, and the Federal Government has still not issued its response, and

(iii) communities are waiting anxiously on the Government’s response to the key recommendations of the Committee, such as, that the Federal Government appoint a Coordinator-General to coordinate the national response to the PFAS contamination issue, undertake measures to improve participation in the voluntary blood testing program for PFAS, and assist property owners and businesses in affected areas for demonstrated, quantifiable financial losses associated with PFAS contamination, including the possibility of buybacks; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to release its response to the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade into management of PFAS contamination in and around Defence bases.

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

Question put and passed.

Ministerial correspondence—Listing of SE Highlands grasslands—Order for production of documents

Senator Waters, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 59—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Prime Minister and Leader of the Government in the Senate, by 31 July 2019, the following documents:

(a) any ‘constituent’ correspondence or other document sent to the Member for Hume, Mr Taylor, requesting action in relation to the listing of Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands ecological community, as referred to by Senator Patrick in the Senate on 25 July 2019; and

(b) any correspondence between the Federal Government and Senator Patrick in relation to any proposed inquiry into the actions of Mr Taylor and Mr Frydenberg.

Statements by leave: The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) and Senator Waters, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.
23 Notice of motion withdrawn
Senator Urquhart, at the request of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong) withdrew business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in the name of Senator Wong for today, proposing a reference to the Environment and Communications References Committee.

24 Discussion of matter of public importance—Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder
The Deputy President (Senator Lines) informed the Senate that the following matter of public importance submitted by Senator Griff under standing order 75 had been selected for discussion today:

The need for more urgent action on alcohol-related harm such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

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

25 Documents—Consideration
Documents tabled earlier today (see entry no. 2) were considered as follows:

Motion to take note of documents nos 1 and 4 moved by Senator Ciccone. Consideration to resume on Thursday at general business.

26 Medicare compliance matters—Answer to question—Document
The Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters (Senator Seselja) tabled the following document:

Medicare compliance matters—Answer to question—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians (Senator Colbeck), providing information concerning a question without notice asked by Senator Bernardi on 24 July 2019.

27 Committee membership
The Acting Deputy President (Senator Griff) informed the Senate that the President had received letters requesting changes in the membership of committees.

The Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters (Senator Seselja), by leave, moved—that senators be appointed to committees as follows:

Effectiveness of the Australian Government’s Northern Australia agenda—Select Committee—
Appointed—Senator Siewert

Multi-Jurisdictional Management and Execution of the Murray Darling Basin Plan—Select Committee—
Appointed—
  Senator Hanson-Young
  Participating members: Senators Di Natale, Faruqi, McKim, Rice, Siewert, Steele-John, Waters and Whish-Wilson

National Broadband Network—Joint Standing Committee—
Appointed—Senator Griff

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—
Appointed—
  Substitute member: Senator Faruqi to replace Senator Rice for the committee’s inquiry into a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses
Participating member: Senator Rice.

Question put and passed.

28 **Migration Amendment (Repairing Medical Transfers) Bill 2019**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:


The Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters (Senator Seselja) 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 Seselja moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

*Consideration of legislation:* Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned till the day fixed for the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee to report on the bill, 18 October 2019.

29 **Future Drought Fund Bill 2019**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported agreeing to the amendment made by the Senate to the following bill:


30 **House of Representatives Select Committee on Regional Australia**

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported, relating to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Regional Australia:

Message no. 23, dated 25 July 2019—Requesting the concurrence of the Senate in permitting the Committee or any subcommittee thereof to consider and make use of the evidence and records of an earlier select committee.

Message no. 25, dated 25 July 2019—Requesting that the Senate take no action in relation to message no. 23, from the House.

31 **Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty Consequential Amendments Bill 2019**

**Passenger Movement Charge Amendment (Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty) Bill 2019**

**Treasury Laws Amendment (Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty) Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Payne)—That these bills be now read a second time—and on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Di Natale) (see entry no. 6).

Debate resumed.

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

Main question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

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

On the motion of the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia (Senator Canavan) the bills were read a third time.
32 Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Bill 2019

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

Debate resumed.

Closure: Senator Steele-John moved—that the question be now put.

Question—that the question be now put—put and passed.

Main question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bill.

In the committee

Bill taken as a whole by leave.

On the motion of Senator Lambie the following amendments, taken together by leave, were debated and agreed to:

Clause 7, page 4 (line 7), after “Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004”, insert “(the MRC Act)”.

Clause 7, page 4 (line 14), before “within a time”, insert “except under the MRC Act—”.

Clause 7, page 4 (after line 18), at the end of the clause, add:

(3) The Commonwealth is committed to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission deciding a claim under the MRC Act within 90 days beginning on:

(a) the day the Commission receives the claim; or

(b) the day the Commission receives information, or a document, that the Commission requested in relation to the claim under section 330 of that Act;

whichever occurs later.

Bill, as amended, agreed to and reported with amendments.

On the motion of Senator Reynolds, the report from the committee was adopted and the bill read a third time.

33 Health Insurance Amendment (Bonded Medical Programs Reform) Bill 2019

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

At 9.50 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Dean Smith was speaking.
34 **Adjournment**

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

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 10.15 pm till Tuesday, 30 July 2019 at midday.

35 **Attendance**

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

**RICHARD PYE**  
Clerk of the Senate