



# Senate Journals

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## 1 Meeting of Senate

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

## 2 Documents

The Clerk tabled the following documents pursuant to statute:

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

*Currency Act 1965*—Currency (Australian Coins) Amendment (2020 Perth Mint No. 1) Determination 2020 [F2020L00118].

*Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001*—Financial Sector (Collection of Data) (reporting standard) determination No. 1 of 2020 [F2020L00116].

*Privacy Act 1988*—Privacy (Disclosure of Homicide Data) Public Interest Determination 2019 [F2019L00322]—Replacement explanatory statement.

## 3 Committee—Leave to meet during sitting

The Joint Statutory Committee on Public Works was authorised to hold a public meeting followed by an in-camera meeting on Wednesday, 26 February 2020, from 5 pm.

## 4 Female Facilities and Water Safety program—Orders for production of documents—Explanations by ministers

The Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck) tabled the following document:

Female Facilities and Water Safety program—Order of 11 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck), dated 13 February 2020, responding to the order.

Senator Colbeck provided an explanation concerning the response.

Senator Farrell moved—That the Senate take note of the explanation.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash) tabled the following document:

Female Facilities and Water Safety program—Order of 11 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash), dated 13 February 2020, responding to the order, and attachment as follows—

Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Mr McCormack), dated 13 February 2020, responding to the order.

Senator Cash provided an explanation concerning the response.

Senator Farrell moved—That the Senate take note of the explanation.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

## 5 **Closing the Gap—Ministerial statement—Consideration**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston)—That the Senate take note of the Prime Minister's annual report on Closing the Gap and accompanying ministerial statement.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

## 6 **Treasury Laws Amendment (Recovering Unpaid Superannuation) Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia (Senator Canavan)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

*At 11.45 am:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Dean Smith was speaking.

## 7 **Notices**

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston): To move on the next day of sitting—That consideration of the business before the Senate on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 be interrupted at approximately 5 pm, but not so as to interrupt a senator speaking, to enable Senator McLachlan to make his first speech without any question before the chair.

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

(a) notes that:

- (i) an estimated 2 million Australians forego necessary dental treatment each year because of the high cost, leaving many with ongoing pain, periodontal disease, decay or missing teeth,
- (ii) poor oral health can cause cardiovascular disease, diabetes and stroke,
- (iii) oral health care is regarded as an ancillary health service and is not covered by Medicare, which often makes it unaffordable to lower-income Australians and those without health insurance, and
- (iv) according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were more than 70,000 hospitalisations in 2016-17 due to preventable dental conditions;

(b) recognises that:

- (i) public dental care is available to people with a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card but services are so stretched and focused on emergency cases that, according to the 2018 Productivity Commission report on Reforms to Human Services, most patients placed on waiting lists wait for a year or more to access treatment, and
- (ii) the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) allows families to access basic services provided in private clinics to a value of \$1,000 over two years, usually bulk-billed, for a child's dental treatment; and

- (c) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) commit to a long-term preventative approach to dental care, and work with the states and territories to reduce public dental service waiting lists, and
  - (ii) introduce a low-income dental benefits scheme, similar to the CDBS, to provide low-income workers and recipients of the Health Care card and Pensioner Concession card with the ability to access timely dental care. (*general business notice of motion no. 463*)

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

- (a) notes with deep concern that:
  - (i) Mr Julian Assange, an Australian citizen and founder and publisher of WikiLeaks, is currently detained in Belmarsh high security prison in the United Kingdom (UK),
  - (ii) Mr Assange faces extradition to the United States (US) under the Espionage Act and 175 years in prison for his part in the publication of evidence of war crimes, and
  - (iii) Mr Assange's physical and mental health in prison is significantly deteriorating;
- (b) calls on the Australian Government to publicly make it clear to the US and UK governments that it opposes Mr Assange's extradition; and
- (c) sends this resolution to the House of Representatives for concurrence. (*general business notice of motion no. 464*)

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

- (a) recognises that:
  - (i) the impending privatisation of buses in Sydney will be a disaster for commuters and transit staff,
  - (ii) the Rail, Tram and Bus Union of New South Wales (NSW), which represents the staff of the bus networks is adamantly opposed to the privatisation plans,
  - (iii) the recent bus privatisations in the Inner West and Newcastle have resulted in reduced on-time running, cut routes, closing stops and poorer working conditions, and
  - (iv) tens of thousands of Sydney residents have already signed petitions and rallied against privatisation;
- (b) calls on the NSW Government to:
  - (i) protect the jobs and working conditions of the around 35,000 workers who are due to have only three years of job security under this reckless scheme,
  - (ii) scrap this reckless privatisation scheme, and
  - (iii) invest in better publicly run and publicly funded transport services; and
- (c) supports the work of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union NSW Branch and Unions NSW in the fight for better public transport services and better working conditions for its members. (*general business notice of motion no. 465*)

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

(a) notes that:

- (i) *Beyond Business as Usual: A 21st Century Culture of Manufacturing in Australia* is a new research report by Western Sydney University and the University of Newcastle identifying the need for a just and sustainable culture of manufacturing in Australia;
- (ii) this research:
  - (A) confirms that manufacturing is making a vital contribution to the Australian economy, and that just and environmentally sustainable manufacturing has a successful future in Australia, providing decent jobs that value workers in an inclusive society, and
  - (B) identifies the importance of manufacturing in addressing climate change and environmental degradation which is evident in the growth of renewable energy technologies and the application of manufacturing techniques to improve energy productivity and sustainability; and

(b) congratulates the authors of this report, which explores the reinvention of manufacturing in Australia. (*general business notice of motion no. 466*)

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

(a) notes that:

- (i) on 1 June 2017 during Senate Estimates hearings, Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Finkel, was asked by former Senator Ian Macdonald if the world was to reduce its carbon emissions by 1.3%, which is approximately Australia's rate of emissions, what impact would that make on the changing climate of the world, and
- (ii) Dr Finkel's response was that 'the impact would be virtually nothing'; and

(b) further notes that:

- (i) reducing all or part of Australia's emissions will have virtually no effect on the global temperature; and
- (ii) all Australian climate policies designed to reduce our carbon dioxide output, whether past, present or future, will have no measurable benefit to humanity or the environment. (*general business notice of motion no. 467*)

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

(a) notes that:

- (i) former Liberal Opposition Leader, Dr John Hewson, in an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 13 February 2020, called on all political parties to fix weaknesses in the parliamentary system, rather than seeking to exploit them, and
- (ii) Dr Hewson identified a 6 point plan to clean up politics:
  - (A) public funding for election campaigns and limits on campaign spending,

- (B) transparency around lobbying, including real-time disclosure of all ministerial meetings,
  - (C) truth in advertising legislation,
  - (D) introduce penalties for false, deceptive, and misleading conduct by parliamentarians,
  - (E) independent standards for candidates, and
  - (F) a fully funded Independent Commission Against Corruption to oversee all activities of our politicians, bureaucrats and federal government, with the capacity to receive anonymous references; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to listen to their former leader and take action to implement Dr Hewson's plan. (*general business notice of motion no. 468*)

Senators Pratt and Watt: To move on the next day of sitting—

- (1) That the Senate notes that:
- (a) the report of the Senate Education and Employment References Committee for its inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers, was tabled on 14 February 2019;
  - (b) in a resolution of 14 March 1973, the Senate declared its opinion that the Government should provide a response to committee reports within three months of tabling; and
  - (c) a government response to the report has not yet been tabled.
- (2) There be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, by no later than midday on 25 February 2020, the government response to the report of the Senate Education and Employment References Committee for its inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers. (*general business notice of motion no. 469*)

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

- (a) notes that:
- (i) according to the latest figures from the Department of Social Services, there are more than 330,000 people aged between 45 and 65 on Newstart,
  - (ii) age discrimination in the workplace is happening to people as young as 45,
  - (iii) the Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research found that 18% of workers aged between 55 and 64 believe their organisation discriminates on the basis of age in recruitment and selection, and
  - (iv) older people, especially women, are increasingly retiring in poverty;
- (b) acknowledges that ageism limits choice, drives poorer outcomes and undermines rights for older people in crucial areas affecting wellbeing including employment and healthcare; and

- (c) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) immediately raise the rate of Newstart and related payments by a significant amount to ensure people are not ageing into poverty; and
  - (ii) address the underlying issue of ageism that contributes to the discrimination, abuse and neglect of older Australians. (*general business notice of motion no. 470*)

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

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) the New South Wales (NSW) Government has lifted its moratorium on floodplain harvesting and water pumping,
  - (ii) water from recent rains has not yet made it down the river and there are still towns without drinking water, dry catchments and storages and fish species facing collapse,
  - (iii) the Murray-Darling Basin Authority says it is too early to say whether all storages will receive water, or if flows will be enough to connect the rivers,
  - (iv) the Queensland Government has also allowed floodplain harvesting which was criticised by the NSW Government,
  - (v) upstream Basin states making decisions that only benefit them puts the entire river system in jeopardy, and
  - (vi) the Murray-Darling Basin is on the verge of collapse, and family farms, river communities and the environment need national leadership; and
- (b) calls on the NSW Government to reinstate the moratorium on floodplain harvesting and water pumping. (*general business notice of motion no. 471*)

*Notices of motion withdrawn:* The Chair of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (Senator Fierravanti-Wells), pursuant to notice of intention given on 12 February 2020, withdrew business of the Senate notices of motion standing in her name, as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 for today for the disallowance of the Helicopter Aerial Application Endorsements Exemption 2019 [F2019L01132].

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 for eight sitting days after today for the disallowance of the Broadcasting Services (Transmitter Access) Regulations 2019 [F2019L01248].

## 8 Selection of Bills—Standing Committee—Report no. 2 of 2020

The Chair of the Selection of Bills Committee (Senator Dean Smith) tabled the following report:

### SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 OF 2020

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 12 February 2020 at 7.10 pm.
2. The committee recommends that the following bill **not** be referred to committees: Treasury Laws Amendment (Reuniting More Superannuation) Bill 2020.



3. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
- Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Improved Home Care Payment Administration No. 1 Bill 2020
  - Air Services Amendment Bill 2018
  - Australian Education Legislation Amendment (Prohibiting the Indoctrination of Children) Bill 2020
  - Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Donation Reform and Other Measures) Bill 2020
  - Constitution Alteration (Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press) 2019
  - Customs Amendment (Safer Cladding) Bill 2019
  - Defence Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2020
  - Discrimination Free Schools Bill 2018
  - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020
  - Farm Household Support Amendment (Relief Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2020
  - Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2019
  - Great Australian Bight Environment Protection Bill 2019
  - National Radioactive Waste Management (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020
  - National Vocation Education and Training Regulator Amendment (Governance and Other Matters) Bill 2020
  - Regional Forest Agreements Legislation (Repeal) Bill 2017
  - Social Services Legislation Amendment (Better Targeting Student Payments) Bill 2019
  - Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending the Poverty Trap) Bill 2018
  - Social Services Legislation Amendment (Payment Integrity) Bill 2019
  - Statute Update (Regulations References) Bill 2020
  - Superannuation Amendment (PSSAP Membership) Bill 2020
  - Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 1) Bill 2020.

Dean Smith

Chair

13 February 2020.

Senator Dean Smith moved—That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

## 9 **Order of business—Rearrangement**

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) moved—That general business notice of motion no. 457 be considered during general business today.

Question put and passed.

## 10 **Leave of absence**

Senator Dean Smith, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to Senators Birmingham and Reynolds for today, on account of ministerial business.

Question put and passed.

## 11 **Committee—Extensions of time to report**

The Community Affairs References Committee was granted extensions of time to report as follows:

Current barriers to patient access to medicinal cannabis in Australia—from 26 February to 26 March 2020.

Centrelink's compliance program—from 25 March to 19 August 2020.

## 12 **Committees—Allocation of departments and agencies**

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), at the request of the Manager of Government Business (Senator Ruston) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—That departments and agencies be allocated to legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:

### *Community Affairs*

Health

Social Services

### *Economics*

Industry, Science, Energy and Resources excluding Energy and Small Business

Treasury

### *Education and Employment*

Education, Skills and Employment, including Industrial Relations

Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, excluding Industry, Science, and Energy and Resources but including Small Business

### *Environment and Communications*

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, excluding Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Agriculture, Water and the Environment, excluding Agriculture and Water

Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, excluding Industry, Science, and Resources

*Finance and Public Administration*

Finance

Parliament

Prime Minister and Cabinet

*Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade*

Defence, including Veterans' Affairs

Foreign Affairs and Trade

*Legal and Constitutional Affairs*

Attorney-General, excluding Industrial Relations

Home Affairs

*Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport*

Agriculture, Water and the Environment, excluding the Environment

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications excluding Communications

*Statement by leave:* Senator Gallagher, by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.  
Question put and passed.

### 13 **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020**

Senator Hanson-Young, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 437—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Hanson-Young 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 Hanson-Young moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

*Explanatory memorandum:* Senator Hanson-Young, by leave, tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Hanson-Young in continuation.

### 14 **National apology to Stolen Generations**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senators McCarthy and Dodson and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 438—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) 12 years ago, on 13 February 2008, former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in the Australian Parliament,

- (ii) the National Apology to the Stolen Generations came about as a recommendation from the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families, entitled *Bringing Them Home*, tabled on 26 May 1997,
- (iii) the inquiry highlighted the suffering of Indigenous families under the Commonwealth, State and Territory Aboriginal protection and welfare laws and policies, and
- (iv) there is still significant work that needs to be done to address the impacts of dispossession, discrimination and trauma;
- (b) acknowledges that an important step in healing our nation is the acknowledgement of truth; and
- (c) as part of this healing calls on the Federal Government to commit to a process of truth-telling about Australia's history.

Question put and passed.

## 15 **National Diabetes Service Scheme**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senators Polley, Marielle Smith, Ciccone, O'Neill and Farrell and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 448—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) some Australians with type 1 diabetes will benefit from the addition of flash glucose monitoring which has finally been added to the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS),
  - (ii) the addition to the scheme occurs only after a massive year-long community campaign by Australians with type 1 diabetes and the Opposition, including the tabling of a petition of 214,000 signatures to the Parliament,
  - (iii) instead of claiming credit for a diabetes subsidy that comes a year late, and will cover fewer people than promised, the Minister for Health, Mr Hunt, should apologise to Australians with type 1 diabetes for the delay,
  - (iv) Minister Hunt compounded his insult to Australians with type 1 diabetes by when he would allow its addition; he claimed to have never made the promise, but people with diabetes know his promise was clear,
  - (v) thousands of Australians have been forced to continue a painful regimen of finger-prick testing for 12 months because of the Minister's broken promise,
  - (vi) the recent announcement also falls short of expectations that all Australians with type 1 diabetes would be eligible for this NDSS subsidy, and
  - (vii) while very welcome for these groups, thousands of Australians will still miss out on affordable access to the flash monitor;
- (b) calls on Minister Hunt to apologise for the delay; and
- (c) thanks all those who worked so hard for this outcome, including the petition organiser Mr Chris Slingsby-Smith.

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

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 30

Senators—

Ayres	Faruqi	McKim	Smith, Marielle
Brown	Gallagher	O'Neill	Steele-John
Carr	Green	Polley	Sterle
Chisholm	Hanson-Young	Pratt	Urquhart*
Ciccone	Keneally	Rice	Walsh
Di Natale	Kitching	Sheldon	Waters
Dodson	McAllister	Siewert	Whish-Wilson
Farrell	McCarthy		

NOES, 33

Senators—

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

\* Tellers

Question negatived.

## 16 **Sunsuper**

Senator Rennick, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 449—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) on 5 November 2019, Sunsuper confirmed that it was in merger talks with QSuper – Queensland's largest superannuation fund, which would create the nation's largest superannuation fund,
- (ii) the Chairman of the Sunsuper Board is the Honourable Andrew Fraser, former Queensland Treasurer and State Labor Member for Mount Coot-tha,
- (iii) Ms Anne Fuchs, Sunsuper Head of Advice and Retirement, is the Treasurer of the Queensland Labor Party and a Director of Labor Holdings Pty Ltd – the Queensland Labor Party's investment arm;

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

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

- (d) calls on the Queensland Government to ensure that due process is followed in all decisions regarding the proposed Sunsuper and QSuper merger and reflect on whether it is appropriate for its party organisation to accept an \$11,000 political donation from Sunsuper.

*Statements by leave:* The Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation (Senator Hanson) and the Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

## 17 **Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018—Restoration to Notice Paper**

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 450—

- (1) That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.
- (2) That the Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018 be restored to the *Notice Paper* and consideration of the bill resume at the stage reached in the 45th Parliament.

Question put and passed.

## 18 **Economy**

Senator Whish-Wilson, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 451—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), Mr Philip Lowe, has consistently urged government to use the cheapest money in history to invest in productivity-enhancing infrastructure, new data technologies, human capital, clean energy production and distribution, and measures to protect Australia from climate change, and
  - (ii) the Government's neglect of fiscal policy and its over-reliance on monetary policy is encouraging the inflation of asset prices and is helping push home ownership further beyond the reach of young Australians; and
- (b) urges the Government to adopt the advice of the RBA and drive a government-led plan of investment to create new jobs and new industries in order to create a more sustainable economy and a more equitable future for Australians.

*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.

## 19 **New South Wales—Storms**

Senator O'Neill, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 452—That the Senate—

- (a) recognises that:
  - (i) the recent storms in New South Wales (NSW) have capped off a brutal summer of natural disasters for Australia,

- (ii) tens of thousands of people have been left without electricity, and residents have been forced to evacuate in areas across Sydney and the Central Coast,
- (iii) hardworking members of the United Services Union and Electrical Trades Union (ETU) are out across the State of NSW in risky conditions working hard to restore power and clean up following this catastrophic weather event, and
- (iv) residents in Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point of NSW have been without power for over 120 hours in the last 5 months, and recognises the hard work done by the members of the Mooney Cheero Progress Association;
- (b) calls on the NSW Government to:
  - (i) explicitly recognise the significant role that union members make in clean-up efforts,
  - (ii) ensure that recovery efforts in future years are not hampered by shortages of workers,
  - (iii) acknowledge that privatisation of electricity infrastructure has failed to deliver better, cheaper and more reliable services for Australians, and
  - (iv) invest in better publicly run and publicly funded services as promised by the NSW Government;
- (c) condemns the cuts to 5,000 jobs since 2015 at electrical distribution businesses in NSW; and
- (d) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) acknowledge that privatisation of electricity infrastructure has failed to deliver better, cheaper and more reliable services for Australians as promised by the Federal Liberal Government,
  - (ii) urgently undertake the necessary reforms at the National Energy Market level to address the deficiencies in the regulatory framework which compromises adequate resourcing and staffing by distribution companies to reliably deliver power to residents and recover from the damage caused by storms of increasing severity on the electricity network, and
  - (iii) invite the ETU to the upcoming COAG Energy Council to brief the Council on the lack of capacity of electricity network and distribution businesses to adequately address and recover from events like the recent NSW storms.

Question put and passed.

## 20 **Small business**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senators Farrell and O'Neill and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 453—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) extended payment times are an ongoing issue for small businesses around Australia,
  - (ii) small businesses require prompt payments to help manage cash flow and to grow, particularly when access to finance is tight,

- (iii) almost a year and a half ago, the Prime Minister promised to create a register of the payment times of Australia's 3,000 largest companies,
- (iv) big businesses are frequently extending payment terms to small and medium sized suppliers,
- (v) big businesses are increasingly extending payment terms while also offering third party 'reverse factoring' financing arrangements to small and medium suppliers,
- (vi) small and medium businesses are forced to accept fees in such arrangements in order to be paid in reasonable timeframes,
- (vii) the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is reviewing 'reverse factoring' arrangements for potential breaches of Australian Consumer Law,
- (viii) the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Ms Kate Carnell, said in the review of payment terms, times and practices report, dated March 2019, that such arrangements 'must not replace reasonable payment terms being offered, 30 days or less from invoice, and paying to those terms. It is not acceptable for large business to use small suppliers to optimise their cash flow', and
- (ix) following pressure from Labor, members of the crossbench, the Ombudsman, and the media, Rio Tinto and Telstra have committed to 20-day payment terms; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) release details on its register of the payment times of Australia's 3,000 largest companies,
  - (ii) make a commitment that big businesses that extend payment times beyond 30 days and offer 'reverse factoring' arrangements cannot use such arrangements to hide their true payment times on the register, and
  - (iii) clamp down on conditions that allow big businesses to treat small businesses like piggy banks.

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

Question put and passed.

## 21 **Migration—Skilled regional provisional visas**

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. 454—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the Migration Amendment (New Skilled Regional Visas) Regulations 2019 created new skilled regional provisional visas that began accepting applicants in November 2019;
- (b) recognises that the Government has:
  - (i) appointed Regional Certifying Bodies (RCB) in each state and territory to provide advice and information to the Department of Home Affairs about local labour market conditions and other relevant regional matters,



- (ii) nominated local Chambers of Commerce and Industry across Queensland to act as RCB,
  - (iii) failed to explain how actual or perceived conflicts of interest can be resolved when Queensland Chambers of Commerce and Industry are assessing and certifying applications for new regional provisional visas from their own members, and
  - (iv) failed to allow consideration of the New Skilled Regional Visas (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2019, despite it being on the *Notice Paper* since October 2019; and
- (c) condemns the Federal Government for its failure to consult with unions and other employee groups prior to the appointment of RCB in Queensland.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

#### AYES, 35

Senators—

Ayres	Gallagher	McKim	Steele-John
Bilyk	Green	O'Neill	Sterle
Carr	Griff	Patrick	Urquhart*
Chisholm	Hanson	Pratt	Walsh
Cicccone	Hanson-Young	Rice	Waters
Di Natale	Keneally	Roberts	Watt
Dodson	Kitching	Sheldon	Whish-Wilson
Farrell	Lambie	Siewert	Wong
Faruqi	McAllister	Smith, Marielle	

#### NOES, 31

Senators—

Abetz	Duniam	McKenzie	Ruston
Antic	Fawcett	McLachlan	Ryan
Askew	Fierravanti-Wells	McMahon	Scarr
Bragg	Henderson	Molan	Seselja
Brockman	Hughes	O'Sullivan	Smith, Dean*
Chandler	Hume	Paterson	Stoker
Colbeck	McDonald	Payne	Van
Davey	McGrath	Rennick	

\* Tellers

Question agreed to.

## 22 Narrabri Gas Project

Senator Faruqi, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 455—That the Senate—

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

- (ii) the NGP is fiercely opposed by local communities, farmers, and ecologists because it threatens the Pilliga Forest, the Great Artesian Basin, farmers' livelihoods, and food and water security, and
- (iii) the NGP will further delay the shift to renewables and exacerbate the climate crisis; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to protect the Pilliga Forest and the Great Artesian Basin from any new fossil fuel projects including the NGP.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

#### AYES, 11

Senators—

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

#### NOES, 49

Senators—

Abetz	Duniam	McDonald	Ruston
Antic	Fawcett	McGrath	Ryan
Askew	Fierravanti-Wells	McKenzie	Scarr
Ayres	Gallagher	McLachlan	Seselja
Bilyk	Green	McMahon	Sheldon
Bragg	Henderson	Molan	Smith, Dean
Brockman	Hughes	O'Neill	Smith, Marielle
Carr	Hume	O'Sullivan	Stoker
Chandler	Keneally	Paterson	Urquhart*
Ciccone	Kitching	Payne	Van
Colbeck	Lambie	Pratt	Walsh
Davey	McAllister	Rennick	Watt
Dodson			

\* Tellers

Question negatived.

## 23 Regenerative agricultural practices

Senator Rice, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 456—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
  - (i) the growth in farmer-led action across Australia to adopt regenerative agricultural practices which are increasing soil health and carbon, and improving biodiversity and water systems,
  - (ii) that regenerative agriculture practices have the potential to address drought, flood and desertification issues currently faced by Australian farmers and land managers, and which are exacerbated by global heating and the climate crisis, and
  - (iii) that the second annual National Regenerative Agriculture Day is being held in Australia on 14 February 2020, sharing practices and information amongst primary producers nationally; and

- (b) calls on the Federal Government to support agricultural practices that contribute to improving soil carbon, water systems and biodiversity, and which increase the resilience and health of our food and fibre production in Australia.

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

Question put and passed.

## 24 Education

Senator Faruqi, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 458—That the Senate—

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

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 11

Senators—

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

NOES, 50

Senators—

Abetz	Duniam	McGrath	Ruston
Antic	Fawcett	McKenzie	Ryan
Askew	Fierravanti-Wells	McLachlan	Scarr
Ayres	Gallagher	McMahon	Seselja
Bilyk	Green	Molan	Sheldon
Bragg	Hanson	O'Neill	Smith, Dean
Brockman	Henderson	O'Sullivan	Smith, Marielle
Carr	Hughes	Paterson	Stoker
Chandler	Hume	Payne	Urquhart*
Ciccone	Keneally	Pratt	Van
Colbeck	Kitching	Rennick	Walsh
Davey	McAllister	Roberts	Watt
Dodson	McDonald		

\* Tellers

Question negatived.

## 25 India—Citizenship Amendment Act

*Motion determined as not formal:* Senator Di Natale, also on behalf of Senator Faruqi, requested that general business notice of motion no. 459 standing in their names for today, relating to Indian citizenship, be taken as formal. An objection was raised and the motion was not proceeded with as a formal motion.

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

## 26 Emissions

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator McAllister and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 460—That the Senate—

- (a) acknowledges Prime Minister Morrison’s extraordinary rebuke of New South Wales Minister for Energy and Environment, and fellow Liberal, Mr Matt Kean MP, for suggesting Federal Liberals are pushing the Morrison Government to increase its ambition on emissions reduction;
- (b) notes that Prime Minister Morrison told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s *AM* program in response to Minister Kean’s comments ‘Matt Kean doesn’t know what he’s talking about, he doesn’t know what’s going on in the Federal Cabinet [and] most of the Federal Cabinet wouldn’t even know who Matt Kean was’;
- (c) acknowledges the support of federal Liberals, including North Sydney MP Mr Trent Zimmerman, for increased emissions reduction;
- (d) further notes:
  - (i) Mr Zimmerman’s quote in the Fairfax-Nine newspapers that ‘Australians want us to get on with the job of meeting our Paris emissions but looking at what more we can do to reduce our emissions further’;
  - (ii) that despite Prime Minister Morrison repeatedly declaring Australia will ‘meet and beat’ its international emission reductions obligations:
    - (A) the Government’s own emissions data confirms Australia will not meet our Kyoto commitment to cut emissions by 5% next year on 2000 levels by 2020,
    - (B) the Government’s own data suggests our emissions will come down by less than 5% over the next 10 years, and
    - (C) at the Government’s current rate of emissions reduction it will take Australia 230 years to reach net zero emissions, rather than the 30 years scientists tell us is necessary; and
- (e) calls on the Prime Minister to stop fudging the numbers and show some leadership, control the civil war within the Coalition over climate action, and finally put in place a policy that will reduce Australia’s emissions.

Question put and passed.

## 27 Closing the Gap

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 461—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the *Closing the Gap Report 2020* shows that we are on track to meet just 2 of the 7 targets to reduce the disparity in health, education and employment outcomes between First Nations peoples and non-Indigenous peoples;
- (b) acknowledges:
  - (i) the important work being done between the Council of Australian Governments and the Coalition of Peaks to develop a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and
  - (ii) that punitive measures like compulsory income management, the Cashless Debit Card, the Northern Territory Intervention, and the Community Development Program are inconsistent with this new approach;
- (c) further notes the failure to implement recommendations from significant reports, such as:
  - (i) the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody,
  - (ii) *Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families*; and
  - (iii) the Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory; and
- (d) calls on the Federal Government to abandon punitive measures and to commit to a genuine process of self-determination to close the gap.

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

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 31

Senators—

Ayres	Faruqi	McKim	Steele-John
Bilyk	Gallagher	O'Neill	Sterle
Carr	Green	Patrick	Urquhart*
Chisholm	Griff	Pratt	Walsh
Ciccone	Hanson-Young	Rice	Waters
Di Natale	Keneally	Sheldon	Watt
Dodson	Kitching	Siewert	Whish-Wilson
Farrell	McAllister	Smith, Marielle	

## NOES, 32

Senators—

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

\* Tellers

Question negatived.

**28 Superannuation guarantee**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator McAllister and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 462—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) the Government legislated in 2014 to increase the superannuation guarantee to 12% by 2025, and
- (ii) the Minister for Finance, Senator Cormann, said in the Senate that the increase to the superannuation guarantee would be ‘specified and locked into the legislation’; and

(b) reaffirms its commitment to the legislated superannuation guarantee rise to 12% by 2025.

Question put and passed.

**29 Committee—Leave to meet during sitting**

Senator Urquhart, by leave and at the request of the Chair of the Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants (Senator Chisholm), moved—That the Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants be authorised to hold a private briefing followed by a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate today, from 3.45 pm.

Question put and passed.

**30 Private senators’ bills—Consideration**

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) moved—That the following general business orders of the day be considered on Monday, 24 February 2020 at the time for private senators’ bills:

No. 48 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020

No. 49 Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018.

Question put and passed.

### 31 **Committee membership**

The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter requesting changes in the membership of a committee.

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, moved—That Senator Carr replace Senator Chisholm on the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for the committee's inquiry into provisions of the Native Title Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, and Senator Chisholm be appointed as a participating member.

Question put and passed.

### 32 **Export Control Bill 2019**

**Export Control (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2019**

**Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2019**

**Export Charges (Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2019**

**Export Charges (Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2019**

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

Message no. 163, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to provide for the control of the export of certain goods, and for related purposes.

Message no. 166, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to deal with consequential amendments and transitional matters arising from the enactment of the *Export Control Act 2019*, and for other purposes.

Message no. 164, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Act 2015*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 165, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Export Charges (Imposition—Excise) Act 2015*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 169, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Export Charges (Imposition—General) Act 2015*, and for related purposes.

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) 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 Duniam moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

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

**33 Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Bill 2019  
Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment (Rates of Charge) Bill 2019**

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

Message no. 168, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Migration Act 1958*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 167, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act 1997*, and for related purposes.

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) 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 Duniam moved—That these bills 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 bills, 18 March 2020.

**34 Commonwealth Registers Bill 2019  
Treasury Laws Amendment (Registries Modernisation and Other Measures) Bill 2019  
Business Names Registration (Fees) Amendment (Registries Modernisation) Bill 2019  
Corporations (Fees) Amendment (Registries Modernisation) Bill 2019  
National Consumer Credit Protection (Fees) Amendment (Registries Modernisation) Bill 2019**

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

Message no. 171, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act relating to a government registry regime, and for related purposes.

Message no. 170, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to corporations, business names registration and consumer credit and to deal with consequential matters relating to the enactment of the *Commonwealth Registers Act 2019*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 172, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Business Names Registration (Fees) Act 2011*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 173, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Corporations (Fees) Act 2001*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 174, dated 12 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend the *National Consumer Credit Protection (Fees) Act 2009*, and for related purposes.

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) 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 Duniam moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

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

**35 National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment Bill 2019**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported returning the following bill without amendment:

Message no. 175, dated 13 February 2020—National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment Bill 2019.

**36 Treasury Laws Amendment (Recovering Unpaid Superannuation) Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

*At 2 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Green was speaking.

**37 Questions**

Questions without notice were answered.

*Document:* The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) tabled the following document:

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme—Transport industry—‘Union joins business to savage ALP’, article by Matthew Franklin, *The Australian*, 25 July 2011.

Further questions without notice were answered.

**38 Australian Parliamentary Computer Network—Statement by President**

The President made a statement relating to the security of the Australian Parliamentary Computer Network.

**39 Motions to take note of answers**

Senator Polley moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians (Senator Colbeck) to questions without notice asked by Senators Keneally and O’Neill today relating to home care packages.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Senator Faruqi moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) to a question without notice asked by Senator Faruqi today relating to the impact of climate change on students.

Question put and passed.

#### 40 **Particulars of proposed additional expenditure—2019-20—Documents**

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

Particulars of proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2019-2020].

Particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2019-2020].

Senator Ruston, by leave, moved—That—

- (a) the documents, together with the final budget outcome 2018-19 (*see entry no. 31, 19 September 2019*) and the advances under the annual Appropriation Acts for 2018-19 (*see entry no. 2, 11 February 2020*), be referred to committees for examination and report; and
- (b) consideration of the advances provided under the annual Appropriation Acts be made an order of the day for the day on which committees report on their examination of the additional estimates.

Question put and passed.

#### 41 **Estimates of proposed additional expenditure for 2019-20—Portfolio additional estimates statements—Portfolios and executive departments—Documents**

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

Estimates of proposed additional expenditure for 2019-20—Portfolio additional estimates statements—Portfolios and executive departments—

Agriculture, Water and Environment.

Attorney-General's.

Defence.

Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Education, Skills and Employment.

Finance.

Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Health.

Home Affairs.

Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Social Services.

Treasury.

**42 Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill 2019**  
**Telecommunications (Regional Broadband Scheme) Charge Bill 2019**

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

Message no. 176, dated 13 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to telecommunications, and for other purposes.

Message no. 177, dated 13 February 2020—A Bill for an Act to impose a charge to support the funding of fixed wireless broadband and satellite broadband, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Ruston moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

*Consideration of legislation:* Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned till the day fixed for the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee to report on the bills, 21 February 2020.

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

Senator Davey, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee (Senator Abetz), tabled the following documents:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee— Budget estimates 2019-20 (Supplementary)—Additional information received between 4 December 2019 and 11 February 2020—

Defence portfolio.

Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio.

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

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Reports—Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2018 [Provisions]—Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019 [Provisions]—Government response, dated February 2020.

**44 Documents—Orders of the day—Consideration**

The following orders of the day relating to documents were considered:

*Aged Care Act 1997*—Report for 2018-19 on the operation of the Act. Motion of Senator Polley to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Workplace Gender Equality Agency—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Bilyk to take note of document agreed to.

Schedule of multilateral treaties under negotiation, consideration or review by the Australian Government as at August 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

City of Sydney—Annual report—Order of 3 December 2019—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Senator Birmingham) responding to the order and raising a public interest immunity claim. Motion of Senator Watt to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Education and Employment References Committee—Report—The people behind 000: mental health of our first responders—Order of 4 December 2019—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash) responding to the order, and attachment. Motion of Senator McCarthy to take note of documents debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

President's report to the Senate on the status of government responses to parliamentary committee reports as at 31 December 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Australian Sports Foundation Limited—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Outback Stores Pty Ltd—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Estimates hearings—Unanswered questions on notice—Statements pursuant to the order of the Senate of 25 June 2014—Budget estimates 2019-20 (Supplementary)—Department of Veterans' Affairs; Home Affairs portfolio; Industry, Science and Technology portfolio; Industry, Science and Technology portfolio (Resources and Northern Australia). Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of documents agreed to.

National Children's Commissioner—Children's rights—Report for 2019. Motion of Senator Siewert to take note of document agreed to.

Australian Building and Construction Commission—Performance of the functions and the exercise of powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019. Motion of Senator Ciccone to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

#### **45 Committee reports and government responses—Orders of the day—Consideration**

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

Human Rights—Joint Statutory Committee—Report 1 of 2020—Human rights scrutiny report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Henderson) to take note of report agreed to.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Inquiry into PFAS contamination in and around Defence bases—First report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Human Rights—Joint Statutory Committee—Report 6 of 2019—Human rights scrutiny report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Henderson) to take note of report agreed to.

Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas—Select Committee—Report. Motion of Senator McDonald to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Intelligence and Security—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Annual report of committee activities 2018-19—Report. Motion of Senator McGrath to take note of report agreed to.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—NDIS Planning—Interim report. Motion of Senator Brown to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

#### **46 Auditor-General's reports—Orders of the day—Consideration**

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

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 20 of 2019-20—Financial statements audit—Audits of the financial statements of Australian Government entities for the period ended 30 June 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 22 of 2019-20—Performance audit—Future Submarine Program – Transition to design: Department of Defence. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 23 of 2019-20—Performance audit—Award of funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program—Australian Sports Commission. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

#### **47 Community Sport Infrastructure Program—Orders for production of documents—Documents**

The Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters (Senator Seselja) tabled the following documents:

Community Sport Infrastructure Program—Orders of 5 February 2020—Letters to the President, dated 13 February 2020, each with attachments, responding to the orders and raising public interest immunity claims—

Communication between offices—Order no. 389—Letter from the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck).

Communications and advice—Order no. 379—Letter from the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann).

Minister for Sport—Order no. 378—Letter from the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck).

Spreadsheet—Order no. 387—Letter from the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck).

**48 Special purpose flights—Order for production of documents—Document**

The Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters (Senator Seselja) tabled the following document:

Special purpose flights—Order of 11 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds), dated 12 February 2020, responding to the order.

*General business was called on.*

**49 Rate of Newstart and disaster payments**

Senator Siewert moved general business notice of motion no. 457—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the low rate of Newstart and the insufficient rate of disaster payments do not adequately meet people's needs and can exacerbate the difficult circumstances people are experiencing in the face of bushfires and drought; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to immediately raise the rate of Newstart by at least \$95 a week and raise the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment to \$3,000 per adult and \$1,000 per child.

Debate ensued.

*At 5.30 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Watt was speaking.

**50 Adjournment**

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

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 6 pm till Monday, 24 February 2020 at 10 am.

**51 Attendance**

Present, all senators except Senators Birmingham\*, Gallacher\* and Reynolds\* (\*on leave).

**RICHARD PYE**  
Clerk of the Senate