

## LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2007 SPRING SITTINGS

Bills marked \* are proposed for introduction and passage in the Spring sittings

### AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

#### **Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Data Protection) Bill**

- complete the implementation of the regime of data protection in respect of agricultural and veterinary chemicals subject to review, including amended arbitration arrangements, and finalise amendments to data protection provisions which were introduced as part of the Australia-United States Free Trade agreement legislation

#### **Dairy Adjustment Levy Termination Bill**

- provide for the wind-up of the Dairy Adjustment Authority and termination of the Dairy Adjustment Levy

#### **Primary Industries Levies and Charges Amendment Bill**

- better protect government and industry interests in the imposition, collection and disbursement of primary industry levies and charges

### ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

#### **Australian Law Reform Commission (Amendment) Bill**

- change the governance arrangements of the Australian Law Reform Commission to bring it into line with the executive management template recommended by the *Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders* (the Uhrig Review)

#### **Copyright Amendment (Indigenous Communal Moral Rights) Bill**

- provide moral rights to Indigenous communities in certain copyright works, films and performances

#### **Customs Amendment (Reducing Business Compliance Burden) Bill**

- codify the policy underpinning periodic payment arrangements for excise-equivalent customs duties and allow small businesses to use monthly periodic payment arrangements for excise-equivalent goods
- enhance and streamline eligibility for refunds of customs duty on excise-equivalent goods

#### **Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 2)**

- amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* to incorporate any tariff alterations

#### **Disability Discrimination (Productivity Commission Review) and Other Measures Bill**

- amend the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the Act) to implement the government's response to the Productivity Commission's review of the Act and other measures to improve its overall efficiency and operation

#### **Evidence Amendment Bill**

- implement the government's response to the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission on uniform evidence law
- provide for certain electronic versions of Acts to be taken to be a complete and accurate record of those Acts

### **Family Law Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Family Law Act 1975* to implement a range of measures

### **Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters) Bill**

- amend the *Family Law Act 1975* to implement references of legislative power to the Parliament of the Commonwealth by some states on financial matters arising out of the breakdown of de facto relationships

### **Family Law (Same Sex Adoption) Bill**

- amend the *Family Law Act 1975* to indicate that adoptions by same sex couples of children from overseas under either bilateral or multilateral arrangements will not be recognised in Australia

### **Federal Court Amendment (Criminal Jurisdiction) Bill**

- facilitate the effective exercise by the Federal Court of new indictable criminal jurisdiction in relation to serious cartel conduct which will be granted by proposed amendments to the *Trade Practices Act 1974*

### **Law and Justice (Cross Border and Other Amendments) Bill**

- facilitate the effective operation of the Cross Border Justice Scheme and enhance the efficient conduct of business in the federal courts

### **Privacy Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Privacy Act 1988* to implement recommendations from the Privacy Commissioner's review of the private sector provisions of the Act

## **COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

### **Arts and Sport Portfolio Agencies Corporate Governance Amendment Bill**

- amend the enabling legislation of the Arts and Sport statutory agencies to reflect best practice corporate governance arrangements where relevant, drawing on outcomes of the *Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders* (the Uhrig Review)

### **Australian Screen Authority Bill**

- establish a single film agency combining the functions of the Australian Film Commission, Film Finance Corporation Australia Limited and Film Australia Limited

### **Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment Bill**

- improve the radiocommunications legislative framework and enable the Australian Communications and Media Authority to more efficiently progress the market-based reforms underpinning this framework

## **DEFENCE**

### **Defence Legislation Amendment Bill**

- give effect to certain recommendations of the 2003 Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade References Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of Australia's military justice system by simplifying summary procedures, simplifying rules of evidence, revising offences and scales of punishments, revising elections for trial, and facilitating appeals from summary authorities to the Australian Military Court

### **Military Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill**

- provide clarity for the Military Superannuation and Benefits Board of Trustees in relation to indemnity issues

## **EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING**

### **Higher Education Endowment Fund Bill \***

- establish the Higher Education Endowment Fund

## **EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

### **Social Security Amendment (2007 Measures No. 2) Bill \***

- amend provisions of social security law to improve access to social security payments to certain highly disadvantaged recipients
- make the application of social security laws more consistent and equitable

### **Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (AFP Benefits) Bill**

- implement an enhanced system of workers' compensation benefits for Australian Federal Police (AFP) members deployed overseas on approved missions so that AFP members receive benefits consistent with those provided to Australian Defence Force members on like overseas missions

## **ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES**

### **Water Bill \***

- establish an overriding Commonwealth water resource management function across the Murray-Darling Basin
- establish a national water information service within the Bureau of Meteorology

### **Environment and Water Resources Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1)**

- remove overlap between the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* and the *Sea Installations Act 1987*
- increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the EPBC Act

### **Environment and Water Resources Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2)**

- implement recommendations arising from the Australian Government Review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* not implemented through the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 2007*

### **National Streamlined Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Bill**

- establish a national system for streamlined reporting of greenhouse and energy data by business through a single online portal
- provide for reporting to be mandatory for companies above certain emissions or energy use/production thresholds
- provide verified emissions and energy data to support the development and implementation of a national emissions trading scheme
- provide for company-level emissions and energy data to be made available to the public

## FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

### **Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill \***

#### **Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Northern Territory National Emergency Response and Other Measures) Bill \***

- provide the legislation in relation to the Australian Government's response to the national emergency confronting the welfare of Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory

### **Social Security and Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Welfare Payment Reform) Bill \***

- provide the legislation for new national welfare measures to help address child neglect and encourage school attendance

### **Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* to add further land to Schedule 1 to the Act
- amend the *Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986* to enable the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council to make by-laws for relevant penalties and fees for service

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### **Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Amendment Bill**

- update provisions in the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act) to:
  - take account of amendments to the *Corporations Act 2001*
  - enhance the accountability of Commonwealth companies
  - harmonise specific penalty provisions in the CAC Act with the *Corporations Act 2001*
  - clarify various provisions of the CAC Act

### **Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2)**

- simplify the financial management framework and reduce red tape in internal Australian Government administration
- repeal unused special appropriations
- update, clarify and align other financial management and reporting provisions

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

### **Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment Bill**

- simplify the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation's (EFIC) powers and expand EFIC's powers to better assist small to medium-sized exporters to expand globally

## HEALTH AND AGEING

### **Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Dental Services) Bill \***

- enable implementation of new Medicare Benefits Schedule items for dental care services as announced in the 2007-08 Budget

### **National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits – Cost Recovery) Bill \***

- provide for cost recovery for processes involved in having medicines, vaccines and other products listed for government subsidisation on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the National Immunisation Programme
- clarify the intention in relation to the approval of pharmacists to supply pharmaceutical benefits “at or from” premises

### **National Health Security Bill \***

- provide Australia with a national framework for the management of Australia’s response to public health events of national and international concern

### **Aged Care Amendment (Securing the future of aged care for Australians) Bill**

- implement the Securing the future of aged care for Australians package of reforms and make related amendments

### **Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review) Bill**

- enhance the administration of the Professional Services Review Scheme

### **Health Legislation Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Supply) Bill**

- make a number of minor administrative amendments associated with the approval and entitlement of pharmacists to supply pharmaceutical benefits

### **National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Access) Bill**

- provide access to medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for Australian Government employees (and their dependants) while working in other countries

### **National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Prescribing – Optometrists) Bill**

- provide for optometrists to be approved to prescribe a limited list of eye medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and for patients to obtain those prescriptions at PBS payment rates

## **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

### **Migration Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Migration Act 1958* to strengthen provisions in relation to border protection, border processing and reporting requirements and make consequential amendments to the Customs Act 1901 to ensure that the same reporting obligations exist under both migration and customs legislation
- clarify that where a Special Purpose Visa ceases on a day it ceases at the end of that day
- require all persons arriving by sea to undergo immigration clearance procedures unless specifically exempted from doing so

## **INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES**

### **Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill**

- give effect to the outstanding aspects of the government’s response to the Intellectual Property and Competition Review report and the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property report on patent enforcement not included in the *Patents Amendment Act 2001* or the *Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Act 2006*

### **National Measurement Amendment Bill**

- introduce an average quantity system for packaged goods

### **Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill**

- amend paragraphs 87(1A)(b) and 87(1B)(a) of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (the Act) to allow the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to take representative action in relation to sections 45D and 45E of the Act, affording business, and particularly small businesses, some enhanced protection from unlawful secondary boycotts

### **Tradex Scheme Amendment Bill**

- clarify the eligibility requirements for Tradex by removing it from reliance on the Drawback Regulations

## **PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

### **Prime Minister and Cabinet Legislation Amendment Bill**

- make miscellaneous amendments to update and improve the operation of legislation in the Prime Minister's portfolio

## **TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES**

### **Maritime College Integration Bill \***

- repeal the *Maritime College Act 1978* to facilitate integration of the Australian Maritime College with the University of Tasmania

### **Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability and International Airlines) Bill**

- implement the Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, done at Montreal on 28 May 1999, which modernises the system of international air carriers' liability

### **Motor Vehicle Standards Amendment Bill**

- implement two multilateral treaties and allow Australian vehicle standards to be harmonised with global standards

### **Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage) Bill**

- give effect to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (the Bunkers Convention)

### **Protection of the Sea (Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Amendment Bill**

- establish a second compensation Fund over the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund to provide increased compensation for pollution damage caused by oil spills from oil tankers

### **Trade Practices Amendment (International Liner Cargo Shipping) Bill**

- implement pro-competitive reforms by excluding discussion agreements from exemptions, protecting confidentiality of individual service contracts, and strengthening Part X review and enforcement processes

### **Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill**

- clarify the definitions that apply to aircraft movement, slots and no-slot movements and other amendments to improve the administration of the slot management scheme

## **TREASURY**

### **Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Review of Prudential Decisions) Bill \***

- give effect to aspects of the government's response to *Rethinking Regulation: Report of the Taskforce on Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business* and to the report of the HIH Royal Commission, by enhancing the operational independence of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), expanding the availability of merits review for certain decisions made by APRA, bringing the disqualification processes under the prudential Acts into line with the Australian Securities and Investments Commissions processes, and streamlining APRA's directions powers under the prudential Acts

### **Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 5) Bill \***

- amend various tax Acts

### **Australian Securities and Investments Commission Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* to change the governance arrangements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board to bring them into line with the executive management template recommended by the *Review of the Corporate governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders* (the Uhrig Review)

### **Cross Border Insolvency Bill**

- provide better mechanisms for dealing with cases of cross-border insolvency, and encourage greater cooperation between Australian courts and insolvency practitioners and foreign courts and insolvency practitioners in the handling of cross-border insolvencies

### **Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Amendment Bill**

- address areas where the foreign investment screening and notification process imposes a costly and unnecessary administrative burden on foreign companies in relation to transactions that have little interest to Australia

### **International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 3)**

- implement new international tax agreements

### **Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 6) Bill**

- amend various tax Acts

### **Tax Laws Amendment (Confidentiality of Taxpayer Information) Bill**

- standardise tax secrecy regime

### **Tax Laws Amendment (Tax Agents' Service) Bill**

- provide for the regulation of tax agents' services at a national level

### **Tax Laws Amendment (Taxation of Financial Arrangements) Bill**

- amend tax legislation to introduce hedging and new tax-timing rules including market-to-market, accruals, retranslation, disposals and realisation

**Trade Practices Amendment (Cartel Conduct and Other Measures) Bill**

- implement recommendations from the Dawson Review to introduce criminal penalties for serious cartel conduct

**Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2)**

- regulate component pricing

**Trade Practices Amendment Bill (No. 3)**

- amend the National Access Regime provisions of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Part IIIA) to give effect to certain provisions of the Council of Australian Governments' Competition and Infrastructure Reform Agreement and the government's response to the Productivity Commission's report *Review of Price Regulation of Airport Services*

<b>VETERANS' AFFAIRS</b>
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**Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2007 Measures No. 2) Bill**

- make minor amendments to the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* to correct minor errors and further align the veterans' entitlements and social security means tests