

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION  
IN THE 2008 WINTER SITTINGS**

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

**AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

**Wheat Export Marketing Bill \***

**Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill \***

- implement the reform of wheat export marketing arrangements by 1 July 2008

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S**

**Same-Sex Relationships (Provision of Equal Entitlements) Bill (No. 1) \***

- introduce the first stage of amendments to laws that currently discriminate on the basis of sexuality and provide for differential treatment of same-sex couples and their children, compared to opposite-sex couples and their children

**Customs Amendment (Enhanced Border Controls and Other Measures) Bill**

- amend the *Customs Act 1901* to enhance Customs border controls

**Customs Amendment (Export Controls) Bill**

- amend the *Customs Act 1901* to strengthen Customs administrative and compliance capabilities within the export environment

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

- codify the existing deferred settlement permission period for remitters of customs duties on like customable goods into the law, and reform the rules concerning eligibility for refunds, remissions and drawbacks of excise-equivalent customs duty

**Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 1)**

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

**Federal Court of Australia Amendment (Criminal Jurisdiction) Bill**

- amend the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* and other legislation to allow the Federal Court to effectively exercise indictable criminal jurisdiction to be granted by the Trade Practices Amendment (Cartel Conduct and Other Measures) Bill

**Judiciary Legislation Amendment Bill**

- respond to the High Court decision in *British American Tobacco v Western Australia [2003 HCA 47]* by amending the *Judiciary Act 1903* to allow the operation of certain State and Territory laws that limit the recovery of invalid State and Territory taxes

**DEFENCE**

**Defence (Home Ownership Assistance) Bill \***

- establish a new Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme and protect existing entitlements for former members and their successors

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

### **Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Tax Rebate and Other Measures) Bill \***

- implement the Government's election commitments to increase the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) from 30 per cent to 50 per cent and cover up to \$7,500 of out-of-pocket costs per child; and to make quarterly payments of the Rebate
- enable logical interaction between the interlinked payments of child care benefit/CCTR
- expand the civil penalty scheme and provide clarification and alignment of other provisions

## ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS

### **Fuel Quality Standards Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* to increase the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement operations and to streamline the administration of the Act

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

- restore Indigenous expertise to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- streamline environmental approval and permitting processes and requirements
- enhance investigation, enforcement and offence provisions
- establish a modern framework for management of the Great Barrier Reef
- improve alignment and integration between the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and other Commonwealth and Queensland legislation

### **Resale Right for Visual Artists Bill**

- provide for resale royalties for visual artists when their original work is resold

## FINANCE AND DEREGULATION

### **Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2008-2009 \***

### **Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2008-2009 \***

### **Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2008-2009 \***

- provide appropriation for expenditure in respect of 2008-2009 on: the ordinary annual services of government; capital financing, payments to or for the States, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, local government authorities and new administered outcomes not authorised by specific legislation; and the services of the Parliamentary Departments

### **Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill \***

- amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* to enhance transparency and accountability of the funding and disclosure regime by: lowering the disclosure thresholds; banning overseas donations, with penalties; tying election funding to reportable and verified electoral expenditure directly incurred by a candidate or party for an election, with penalties; and dealing with donations to separate divisions of a party

### **Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill**

- 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, governance and reporting provisions

### **Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill**

- make minor amendments to the *Superannuation Act 1976* and the *Superannuation Act 1990* to establish a mechanism that would allow the unfunded productivity component of Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and Public Sector Superannuation Scheme benefits to be funded
- simplify, update and improve the operation of the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* and superannuation legislation in the portfolio of the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- repeal obsolete legislation

## **HEALTH AND AGEING**

### **Health Care (Appropriation) Amendment Bill \***

- amend the *Health Care (Appropriation) Act 1998* to provide the legislative basis for the payment of grants for the provision of health and hospital services for a period commencing on 1 July 2008

### **Dental Benefits Bill \***

- fund annual dental preventative checks for 12 to 17 year olds in families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A, and teenagers in the same age group eligible for Youth Allowance or Abstudy

### **National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill \***

- make minor amendments to clarify aspects of the policy intent behind the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme reform
- extend Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme arrangements (including safety net arrangements) in limited situations

## **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

### **Migration Legislation Amendment Bill**

- amend the *Migration Act 1958* in relation to the judicial review and merits review of migration decisions, communication with authorised recipients, border protection, the removal of illegal foreign fishers and environmental offenders, and visa integrity
- amend the *Customs Act 1901* to ensure consistency between the migration and customs legislation
- make minor and technical amendments to the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* and the *Australian Citizenship (Transitionals and Consequentials) Act 2007*

## **INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Protection of the Sea Legislation Amendment Bill**

- implement the Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage to increase the maximum compensation for an oil spill from an oil tanker from about \$370 million to about \$1.3 billion
- make miscellaneous amendments to improve the robustness of Australia's marine environment protection regime

## **INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

### **National Measurement Amendment Bill**

- provide for a national trade measurement system to commence on 1 July 2010

## **RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM**

### **Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill**

- introduce new greenhouse gas injection and storage permits in Commonwealth offshore waters
- define the rights and conditions for petroleum and greenhouse gas injection and storage title holders to inject, store and transport carbon dioxide

## **TREASURY**

### **Tax Laws Amendment (Election Commitments) Bill \***

- introduce certain 2007 election commitments

### **Tax Laws Amendment (First Home Saver Accounts) Bill \***

- implement the 2007 election commitment concerning First Home Saver Accounts

### **Corporations (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill**

- rectify anomalies and drafting errors and make various minor miscellaneous amendments to the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*

### **International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill**

- implement revised tax treaty with Japan

### **Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill**

- amend various tax Acts

### **Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 4) Bill**

- amend various tax Acts, including to amend capital gains tax for demutualisation of health insurers

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

- introduce criminal penalties for serious cartel conduct, which will implement recommendations from the 2003 Review of the competition provisions of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*
- protect certain cartel information from inappropriate disclosure

### **Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill**

- implement the Government's election commitments to amend the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, including amending section 46, extending the powers of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission under section 155 and removing the threshold for unconscionable conduct under section 51AC