



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION
IN THE 2016 AUTUMN SITTINGS**

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

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

- establish a regulatory framework for the telecommunications sector to better safeguard critical systems and data from unauthorised access and interference

Reason for legislation: to implement a Government commitment in response to a Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security recommendation

Link to announcement: [Media release of 3 March 2015](#); [Media release of 26 June 2015](#);
[Media release of 27 November 2015](#)

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS

Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill

- amend the *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) to streamline and simplify provisions relating to disability, education, library and archives sectors provisions
- expand the safe harbour provisions in the Act to service providers not just carriage service providers

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Public and Educational Lending Right Bill

- harmonise and streamline the administration of the Public Lending Right and Educational Lending Right (ELR) programs by amending the *Public Lending Right Act 1985*, including to incorporate the ELR program and make provision for subordinate legislation/legislative instrument to incorporate provisions regarding the ELR program

Reason for legislation: to update the operation of existing legislation

Radiocommunications Bill

Radiocommunications (Licence Tax) Bill

Radiocommunications (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill

- replace the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* to implement the Government's decisions for reform of the management of the radiofrequency spectrum by establishing a single licensing system, integrating broadcasting spectrum management into the general framework, demarcating the roles and responsibilities of the Minister and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), providing for timely allocation processes and giving the ACMA graduated and proportionate enforcement mechanisms to deal with breaches of the legislative framework

Reason for legislation: to replace the existing legislation with new legislation

Link to announcement: [Media release of 25 August 2015](#)

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill

- establish statutory infrastructure provider obligations on NBN Co Limited in relation to the national broadband network and other providers of superfast carriage services where required
- establish requirements for owners of high-speed broadband networks to operate on a structurally separated basis, with powers for the ACCC to authorise functional separation and to make other associated amendments

Reason for legislation: to implement, in part, the Government's response to the National Broadband Network Market and Regulation Report by the Panel of Experts led by Dr Michael Vertigan AC

Link to announcement: [Media release of 11 December 2014](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Australian National University Bill

- renew the university's legislative framework to ensure that the ANU is able to adapt to changes in the higher education environment and achieve excellence across all domains of activity

Reason for legislation: to give effect to recommendations of the *Review of the Australian National University (ANU) Act 1991 and the governance arrangements of the ANU* (the Walker Review)

Link to announcement: [Media release of 24 June 2015](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Levy Bill

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Levy Collection Bill

Seafarers Legislation Amendment Bill

- create new Acts to modernise and improve the Seafarers Safety and Rehabilitation and Compensation (Seacare) scheme
- create a levy to support the Government's administration of the Seacare scheme

Reason for legislation: to modernise the Seacare scheme by clarifying its coverage, aligning its workers' compensation and work health and safety provisions with the Comcare scheme and establishing a Cost Recovery Levy to fund its effective regulation

Link to announcement: [Senate Hansard Extract of 13 May 2015](#)

Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill

- implement recommendations agreed by the Commonwealth, and a majority of state and territory ministers, following the Examination of Work Health and Safety Laws and other technical amendments

Reason for legislation: to implement amendments made to the Model Work Health and Safety Laws

ENVIRONMENT

Air Quality Standards Bill

- establish a nationally consistent framework to regulate air pollution from specified engines and equipment to achieve better protection of the environment

Reason for legislation: to implement a decision of the 15 December 2015 Meeting of Environment Ministers to introduce emission standards for new non-road spark ignition engines and equipment to reduce air pollution

Link to announcement: [Agreed Statement of the Meeting of Environment Ministers of 15 December 2015](#)

FINANCE

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2015-2016 *

Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2015-2016 *

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2015-2016 *

- propose additional appropriations for expenditure on: the ordinary annual services of the Government; other than the ordinary annual services of the Government (for matters such as capital works and services, payments to States, Territories and Local Government Authorities and equity injections); and the services of the Parliamentary Departments

Reason for legislation: to provide legislative authority for additional expenditure to be incurred in 2015-16

Superannuation Laws Amendment Bill

- make miscellaneous technical changes to the superannuation arrangements for Commonwealth employees, judges and parliamentarians

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Public Governance and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill

- make a range of amendments to Commonwealth legislation, of a governance or resource management nature, as part of the Government's public management reform and red tape reduction agenda
- make the final tranche of amendments required to the enabling legislation of Commonwealth entities as a consequence of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the PGPA Act)
- amend:
 - legislation to make consequential amendments to support the sale of Medibank Private Limited. The sale day was 25 November 2014
 - four Acts to address potential risks around breaches of section 83 of the Constitution and
 - enabling legislation of Commonwealth entities to harmonise their operation with the PGPA Act

Reason for legislation: to amend enabling legislation of Commonwealth entities as a consequence of the PGPA Act and make other amendments to Commonwealth legislation, of a governance or resource management nature, as part of the Government's public management reform and red tape reduction agenda

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Registration of Deaths Abroad Amendment Bill

- amend references in the *Register of Deaths Abroad Act 1984* that are redundant
- maintain scope for the Foreign Minister to appoint a Registrar to register overseas deaths on behalf of the Commonwealth
- remove restrictions on registering overseas deaths
- provide the Registrar with broad ranging discretion to register overseas deaths of persons who have some connection with Australia

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

HEALTH

Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Increasing Consumer Choice) Bill *

- give effect to the first stage of the aged care reforms announced by the Government in the 2015-16 Budget, to provide more choice and flexibility for consumers receiving home care

Reason for legislation: to implement a Budget decision

Link to announcement: [2015-16 Budget – Budget Paper No. 2](#); [2015-16 Budget Fact Sheet](#)

National Cancer Screening Register Bill

- establish a new single National Cancer Screening Register that will be operated by a third party and used to support the National Bowel Cancer and Cervical Screening programs (with capability to support future screening programs)

Reason for legislation: to implement a Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media release of 10 May 2015](#)

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION

Migration Legislation Amendment (Code of Procedure Harmonisation) Bill

- streamline provisions in the *Migration Act 1958* that govern merits review of decisions

Reason for legislation: to consolidate provisions governing review of decisions in Part 5 and Part 7 of the *Migration Act 1958*, following the abolition of the former Migration Review Tribunal and the former Refugee Review Tribunal and the amalgamation of their review functions into the Migration and Refugee Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, by the *Tribunals Amalgamation Act 2015*

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Miscellaneous Matters No. 2) Bill

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Amendment Bill

- clarify and improve the operation of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*
- amend the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Act 2003* to provide for imposition of levies for regulation of greenhouse gas storage wells

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Territories Legislation Amendment Bill

- implement further reforms for Norfolk Island by repealing section 18 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979* and amending the definition of Australia in the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* to include Norfolk Island. These changes will have the effect of extending a range of key Commonwealth laws to Norfolk Island
- make transitional and consequential amendments to other Commonwealth legislation
- provide for compulsory voting and representation in the Parliament for Australian citizens living on Norfolk Island
- address unintended consequences of exclusion from social security for New Zealand citizens on Norfolk Island
- extend child support arrangements to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government's election commitment to undertake comprehensive reforms for Norfolk Island to normalise Commonwealth services, and to align the child support arrangements for the external territories

Link to announcement: [Media release of 19 March 2015](#)

Transport Security Amendment (Serious or Organised Crime) Bill

- give effect to the Government's commitment to ensure that people with relevant criminal history do not receive a security clearance to work at airport or seaport entry points by strengthening the eligibility criteria for the issuing of aviation security identification cards and maritime security identification cards

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment and a commitment made as part of the Government's response to the National Ice Taskforce Report

Link to announcement: [Media release of 6 December 2015](#)

TREASURY

Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill *

- exempt certain assets acquired by Norfolk Island residents before the date of announcement from capital gains tax

Reason for legislation: to implement a MYEFO decision

Link to announcement: [Media release of 23 October 2015](#)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation and Compensation (Australian Defence Force) Bill

- create a separate version of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* to apply only to Australian Defence Force members

Reason for legislation: to simplify and improve the operation of existing legislation