



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION
IN THE 2021 AUTUMN SITTINGS**

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

AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Water Legislation Amendment (Inspector-General of Water Compliance and Other Measures) Bill *

- amend the *Water Act 2007* to establish a new statutory role of Inspector-General of Water Compliance
- amend the *Water Act 2007* to implement compliance measures in response to the recommendations of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Independent Panel's Compliance Review report
- make other minor amendments to the Act

Reasons for legislation: to implement the Government's commitments in relation to the management of the Murray-Darling Basin's water resources

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill

- implement recommendations of the review of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Program to strengthen emission reduction provisions, improve administrative efficiency, bolster compliance and enforcement capability and align existing powers with the *Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014*

Reasons for legislation: to implement recommendations of the review of the Program

Link to announcement: [Government Statement – Improvements to the Ozone Protections and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Program to achieve emissions reductions and streamline its operation](#)

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Amendment Bill

- amend the *Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act 2001* to establish the Harbour Trust as an ongoing entity and modernise its governance arrangements to support its ongoing role

Reasons for legislation: to implement the Government's response to an independent review of the Harbour Trust

Link to announcement: [Media release of 18 June 2020](#)

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Royal Commissions Amendment Bill

- amend the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* to ensure that certain records of the Disability Royal Commission are appropriately protected after the Royal Commission completes its inquiry. The bill also contains two minor measures that would enhance the efficiency of Royal Commissions

Reasons for legislation: to ensure that the sensitive information provided to the Royal Commission by individuals is protected after the inquiry concludes

Link to announcement: [Media release of 20 October 2020](#)

EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Australian National University Bill

Australian National University (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill

- 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) that will renew the ANU's legislative framework to ensure that its governance arrangements are fit for purpose, provide a level of flexibility for the ANU to manage its operations in the evolving higher education policy environment, and maintain and enhance the ANU's status as a leading university into the future

Reasons for legislation: to give effect to recommendations included in the Walker Review

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

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (Charges) Bill

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment (Cost Recovery) Bill

- establish a new annual levy for registered higher education providers to recover the costs of the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency's sector risk monitoring and sector oversight activities
- amend the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* to allow a condition to be imposed on higher education providers that they must pay the new annual registered higher education provider charge

Reasons for legislation: to implement a 2018-19 Budget measure

Link to announcement: [2018-19 Budget Paper No. 2 page 95](#)

FINANCE

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2020-2021 *

Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2020-2021 *

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2020-2021 *

- 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

Reasons for legislation: to request legislative authority for additional appropriations to fund expenditure to be incurred in 2020-2021

HEALTH

Health Insurance Amendment (Prescribed Fees) Bill

- amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973* to remove the requirement for specialists and consultant physicians to pay a \$30 prescribed fee to obtain access to higher Medicare rebates. This minor technical amendment will simplify processes for new specialists to be recognised for the purposes of Medicare

Reasons for legislation: to implement a 2020-21 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures \(page 96\)](#)

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Transparency and Cost Recovery) Bill

- amend the *National Health Act 1953* to: permit the publication of specific types of information relating to listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; make annual adjustments to cost recovery fees more efficient; and make other technical amendments

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

HOME AFFAIRS

Customs Amendment (Strengthening Licensing) Bill

- protect the border by strengthening licensing requirements and thereby the integrity of persons operating within the customs supply chain. The changes will also provide efficiencies for licenses, the regulator and the Department

Reasons for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation, aligning with modernisation and deregulation agendas

Link to announcement: [Review of customs licensing regimes](#)

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Clean Energy Agencies Legislation Amendment Bill

- streamline and align the operations of Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation under a single objective to advance new and emerging low emissions technologies that support the Government's Technology Investment Roadmap and 2020-21 Budget measures
- improve the ability of both agencies to respond to Government priorities and requests
- make administrative changes to improve the operation and governance of ARENA

Reasons for legislation: to enable both agencies to support new and emerging low emissions technologies and 2020-21 Budget measures

Link to announcement: [Media release of 17 September 2020](#)

Industry Research and Development Amendment (Industry, Innovation and Science Australia) Bill

- amend the *Industry and Research Development Act 1986*, and make consequential amendments, to rename Innovation and Science Australia to Industry, Innovation and Science Australia (IISA) to reflect its enhanced focus on industry innovation issues including the Modern Manufacturing Strategy

Reasons for legislation: to support the implementation of a 2020-21 Budget measure (the Modern Manufacturing Strategy)

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Amendment (Extension and Other Measures) Bill

- increase the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility's (NAIF) impact on northern Australia's economic development by:
 - extending investment decisions to 30 June 2026
 - enabling faster lending
 - expanding the scope of projects eligible for funding
 - increasing the NAIF's risk appetite
 - strengthening governance framework
 - allowing the NAIF to make equity investments

Reasons for legislation: to implement measures from the 2020-21 Budget and the Statutory Review of the NAIF

Link to announcement: [Joint media release of 17 July 2020](#); [Joint media release of 30 September 2020](#); [Joint media release of 10 December 2020](#)

Offshore Renewable Energy Infrastructure Bill

Offshore Renewable Energy Infrastructure (Regulatory Levies) Bill

- facilitate and regulate the development of offshore renewable energy generation (including offshore wind) and transmission infrastructure

Reasons for legislation: to enable offshore clean energy infrastructure projects to be undertaken and provide certainty and protection for industry and other maritime stakeholders

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Online Safety Bill *

- establish a new framework for online safety in Australia. The bill will outline the functions and powers of the eSafety Commissioner, including responsibility for the administration of a range of complaints-based content removal schemes for harmful material such as cyberbullying, cyber abuse, image-based abuse and illegal and harmful content

Reasons for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [Media release of 5 May 2019](#)

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Amendment Bill *

- amend the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* to ensure the Act and the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations are best placed to support the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations

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

Link to announcement: [Review of the CATSI Act of 11 December 2019](#)

TREASURY

Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 2) Bill

- implement aspects of the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) reform package, which requires non-government DGRs to be registered as charities, removes public fund requirements and moves administration of the DGR register to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

Reasons for legislation: to implement a 2017-18 MYEFO commitment

Link to announcement: [Media release of 22 August 2018](#); [Media release of 15 June 2017](#)