



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION
IN THE 2010 AUTUMN SITTINGS**

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

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1)

- provide an exception to the general prohibition on disclosure of confidential commercial information where a permit has been sought by a third person for off label use of the product
- include trade issues as a consideration in the determination of adequacy of instructions for labels

Reason for legislation: to implement a COAG commitment

Fisheries Legislation Amendment Bill

- implement the *Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement of Fisheries Laws between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic in the Maritime Areas Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Heard Island and the McDonald Islands* (the Enforcement Agreement)
- give Australian officers general statutory authority to assist French Controllers to undertake cooperative enforcement activities pursuant to the Enforcement Agreement

Reason for legislation: to implement an international treaty

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Personal Property Securities (Corporations and Other Amendments) Bill *

- amend Commonwealth legislation, in particular the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009*, that deals with the creation, registration, prioritising, extinguishment and enforcement of security interests in personal property

Reason for legislation: to make consequential amendments to Commonwealth laws required before the commencement of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* and make technical amendments to that Act

Link to announcement: [Consultation on amendments to the Corporations Act 2001](#)

Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences Against Children) Bill

- amend child sex-related offences to ensure comprehensive coverage of these offences in areas of traditional Commonwealth responsibility

Reason for legislation: to ensure up-to-date and comprehensive criminal offences

Link to announcement: [Media release of 11 September 2009](#)

Customs Amendment (Export Controls) Bill

Customs Depot Licensing Charges Amendment (Export Controls) Bill

- amend the *Customs Act 1901* and *Customs Depot Licensing Charges Act 1997* to strengthen Customs and Border Protection's administrative and compliance capabilities within the export environment

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

Link to announcement: [industry consultation paper](#)

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 1)

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

Reason for legislation: incorporate tariff alterations as required

Electronic Transactions Amendment Bill

- clarify traditional rules on contract formation to address the needs of electronic commerce including by recognising the use of automated message systems, clarifying an invitation to treat, creating rules to determine the location of the parties, and amending electronic signature provisions and default rules for time and place of dispatch and receipt

Reason for legislation: to update the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*, and to be used as a basis for amending the uniform State and Territory electronic transactions legislation to enable accession to the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts 2005

Links to announcements: [SCAG Communiqué of April 2009](#); [Media release of 10 November 2008](#)

Military Justice and Federal Courts Restructure Bill

- make changes to the military justice system in response to the High Court's decision in *Lane v Morrison*
- implement reforms to the structure and governance of the Federal Court, Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court to secure better access to justice for litigants and make better use of publicly funded resources provided to the courts

Reason for legislation: to resolve the future of the military justice system with certainty and update and improve the operation of the courts, thereby securing better access to justice for litigants and better use of publicly funded resources provided to the courts

Links to announcements: [Attorney-General's media release of 20 November 2008](#); [Consultation paper](#); [Report of the review of the delivery by the federal courts of family law services](#); [Attorney-General's media release of 5 May 2009](#); [Defence Minister's media release of 26 August 2009](#); [Defence Minister's media release of 9 September 2009](#)

National Security Legislation Amendment Bill

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Bill

- improve the effective operation of the *National Security Information (Criminal and Civil Proceedings) Act 2004*
- clarify the operation of certain counter-terrorism laws and police questioning and detention powers in response to various reviews of counter-terrorism and security legislation and practices and provide for greater oversight of the Australian Federal Police

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government's response to a range of reviews of national security and counter-terrorism legislation

Links to announcements: [Media release of 23 December 2008](#); [Media release of 12 August 2009](#); [National security legislation – public consultation](#)

Service and Execution of Process (Interstate Fine Enforcement) Amendment Bill

- allow certain fines from one State or Territory to be recognised and enforced in another, in accordance with the laws of that jurisdiction

Reason for legislation: to implement a March 2008 decision of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General

Link to announcement: [SCAG Communiqué of March 2008](#)

Territories Law Reform Bill

- implement reforms to Norfolk Island's administration and governance to improve accountability and transparency in administrative action
- implement reforms to Christmas Island's and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands' administration and governance to improve efficiency and clarity

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government's decision of May 2009

Link to announcement: [Media release of 28 May 2009](#)

BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

National Broadband Network Companies Bill *

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network Measures – Access Arrangements) Bill *

- establish relevant governance, ownership and operating arrangements for NBN Co Limited and amend the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and the *Telecommunications Act 1997* to establish regulatory arrangements for the provision of wholesale services by NBN Co Limited

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government's 7 April 2009 announcement on the National Broadband Network

Link to announcement: [Media release of 7 April 2009](#)

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Fibre Deployment) Bill *

- require greenfield developments that receive planning approval after 1 July 2010 to have optical fibre fixed line connections to the home or workplace

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government's 7 April 2009 announcement on greenfield developments in the context of the National Broadband Network

Link to announcement: [Media release of 7 April 2009](#)

Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Filtering) Bill

- require internet service providers to provide a filtered internet service of refused classification (RC) content to their customers from within 12 months of passage of the legislation. The filtered service will help protect Australian families from RC online content

Reason for legislation: to implement an element of the Government's cyber-safety election commitment

Link to announcement: [Media release of 15 December 2009](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill * and 10 related bills *

- implement the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme to give effect to Australia's obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; to support the development of an effective global response to climate change; and to take action directed towards meeting Australia's targets and to do so in a flexible and cost-effective way

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment and the Government's announcement that the CPRS legislation be reintroduced in February 2010

Link to announcement: [Press Conference transcript of 2 December 2009](#)

DEFENCE

Defence Legislation Amendment Bill

- amend the *Defence Act 1903* to formally establish the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal which is currently operating as an interim administrative body

Reason for legislation: to provide a legislative basis for the operation of the Tribunal

Link to announcement: [Media release of 23 July 2008](#)

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATION

Higher Education Support Amendment (University College London) Bill *

- amend the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to include the University College London as a Table C higher education provider

Reason for legislation: to allow the Australian branch of University College London to offer FEE-HELP to eligible Australian students

Higher Education Support Amendment (Indexation) Bill

- amend the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to specify the basis for indexation of grants and other amounts

Reason for legislation: to give effect to revised indexation arrangements announced in the 2009 Budget which will affect certain amounts for 2011

Link to announcement: [2009 Budget announcement](#)

Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill

- increase appropriations under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000* to provide funding for the Sporting Chance program in order to bring it into the Commonwealth's suite of targeted assistance measures
- adjust the 2010 to 2012 appropriations agreed as part of the new Federal Financial Framework

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill

- give effect to the outcomes from Comcare's review of permanent impairment arrangements

Reason for legislation: following Comcare's review of its permanent impairment arrangements, to implement the Commonwealth's initiatives to strengthen and improve the assessment and compensation of permanent impairment under the Comcare scheme

Social Security Amendment (Flexible Participation Requirements for Carers) Bill

- amend the *Social Security Act 1991* so that certain participation and activity test exemptions for parents receiving income support payments will be broadened and made more flexible, including foster and kinship carer exemptions, the exemption for carers of four or more children, the home educator exemption, distance educator exemption, and the exemption for parents experiencing domestic violence

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Links to announcements: [Media release of 12 May 2009](#)

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Bill

- establish the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency in 2010 to provide the foundation for ensuring and enhancing quality in Australian higher education

Reason for legislation: to implement a key initiative of the Australian Government's reform agenda for higher education announced in the 2009-10 Budget

Links to announcements: [Media release of 12 May 2009](#); [DEEWR website - Transforming Australia's Higher Education System](#)

Work Health and Safety Bill

- give effect in the Commonwealth jurisdiction to nationally harmonised model work health and safety provisions as agreed by the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council

Reason for legislation: to implement the Commonwealth's commitments under the COAG agreement for regulatory and operational reform in occupational health and safety of 3 July 2008

Links to announcements: [Workplace Relations Ministers' Council Communiqué of December 2009](#); [Model OHS legislation](#)

ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS

Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Bill

- establish a national scheme for the mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency information about large office buildings such that when office space with a net lettable area greater than 2000 square metres is to be sold, leased or sub-leased

Reason for legislation: to implement a decision of COAG in the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency

Links to announcements: [Media release of 12 November 2009](#); [DEWHA website - Scheme details](#)

National Environment Protection Council Amendment Bill

- amend the *National Environment Protection Council Act 1994* include a section exclusively applicable to the implementation of National Environment Protection Measures by Australian Government agencies and their activities in both Commonwealth places and state and territory places
- repeal the *National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998*

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

Water Amendment Bill

- address issues that have arisen in the implementation of the *Water Act 2007* and legal advice on the operation of the Act

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

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Amendment Bill

- enable closer integration of Water Efficiency Labelling Standards Scheme requirements with other plumbing regulations

Reason for legislation: to allow implementation of the Government's response to recommendation two of the 2007 report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage *Managing the Flow: Regulating Plumbing Product Quality*

Link to announcement: [Government response](#)

FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Child Support and Family Assistance Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill *

- implement the 2009 Budget measure that provides for one care determination to be used for both child support and family assistance purposes, thereby removing duplication of effort between the Child Support Agency and Centrelink, enhancing consistency in decisions and simplifying service delivery arrangements
- simplify the provisions governing child support assessments based on income estimates

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision and to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Links to announcements: [Media release of 12 May 2009](#); [FaHCSIA Budget website](#)

Carer Recognition Bill

- introduce legislation to recognise symbolically the valuable role and contribution made by carers in society

Reason for legislation: to introduce new legislation

Link to announcement: [Media release of 19 October 2009](#)

Paid Parental Leave Bill

Paid Parental Leave (Administration) Bill

Paid Parental Leave (Consequential Amendments) Bill

- introduce Australia's first comprehensive, statutory paid parental leave scheme, as announced by the Government in the 2009 Budget

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Links to announcements: [Media Release of 12 May 2009](#); [FaHCSIA website](#)

Social Security and Indigenous Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill

- implement the 2008 Budget measure introducing a single assessment process for carer payment and carer allowance in respect of a child
- make amendments to ensure a reliable income stream for the Indigenous Land Corporation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account
- amend the income management provisions to resolve minor anomalies

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2008 Budget decision and to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Links to announcements: [Media release of 13 May 2008](#); [FaHCSIA Budget website](#)

FINANCE AND DEREGULATION

Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Bill* Superannuation Legislation (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill *

- put in place a consolidated trustee board arrangement for the Australian Government Civilian and Military superannuation schemes and make relevant consequential amendments to existing superannuation legislation and other Acts

Reason for legislation: to implement a Government decision

Link to announcement: [Media release of 31 October 2008](#)

Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Bill

- implement further reforms to the campaign funding and financial disclosure laws

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government's legislative response to the issues raised in the *Electoral Reform Green Paper "Donations, Funding and Expenditure"* (released in December 2008) and related submissions

Electoral and Referendum Amendment Bill (No. 1)

- update provisions to reflect changes in technology

Reason for legislation: to enable the Australian Electoral Commission to undertake a range of administrative and election related processes via electronic means and to address the recommendations on technological change made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in the *Report on the conduct of the 2007 federal election and matters related thereto* released in June 2009

Electoral and Referendum Amendment Bill (No. 2)

- correct technical errors and make amendments of a minor nature in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*

Reason for legislation: to enable the Australian Electoral Commission to administer electoral laws more effectively

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment Bill

- simplify the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation's (EFIC) powers under Part 4 of the *Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act 1991* (the Act)
- facilitate the expansion of EFIC's powers under Part 4 of the Act to assist small to medium sized exporters to expand globally

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

Link to announcement: [Media release of 15 September 2009](#)

HEALTH AND AGEING

Health Insurance Amendment (Diagnostic Service Measures) Bill *

- remove the requirement for pathology request forms to be presented to a particular provider in order to increase patient choice and competition in the pathology market, bringing pathology into line with other diagnostic services

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Budget announcement](#)

Healthcare Identifiers Service Bill *

- establish a national Healthcare Identifiers Service and set out arrangements for the operation of the Service

Reason for legislation: to implement and fulfil policy commitment and financial investment made by COAG

Links to announcement: [COAG Communiqué of 10 February 2006](#); [COAG Communiqué of 29 November 2008](#); [AHMC Communiqués of 5 March and 13 November 2009](#)

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Amendment Bill

- remove all duplication of work undertaken by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and Food Standards Australia New Zealand in developing maximum residue limits
- achieve synchronised promulgation of corresponding standards that ensures the protection of public health and safety, and maintains consumer confidence in the two regulatory systems

Reason for legislation: to implement a COAG reform and improve the operation of existing legislation

Link to announcement: [COAG Communiqué of 3 July 2008](#)

Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review) Bill

- streamline the Professional Services Review (PSR) processes in response to recommendations from the Review of the Scheme in 2006 and findings of the Federal Court
- further enhance the scheme's effectiveness by ensuring patients are protected from health and safety risks of inappropriate practice in relation to Medicare and PBS by enabling the PSR Director to notify relevant state and territory health authorities so that appropriate action can be taken

Reason for legislation: to update and improve existing legislation

Link to announcement: [Report from the 2006 Review](#)

National Health Amendment (Matching of MBS/PBS Claims Data) Bill

- establish expanded data matching of Medicare Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme claims data to help identify inappropriate or fraudulent claims and to support such claims being investigated and addressed

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Medicare Australia information for professionals](#)

Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1)

- improve the operation of the lifetime health cover provisions relating to new migrants

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

Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2010 Measures No. 1) Bill

- make a range of amendments to the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* which include modifying the export scheme for medicines to allow for variants of a medicine and strengthening, clarifying or rationalising certain existing provisions within the Act

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

Link to announcement: [Regulatory Reform Program](#)

Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Amendment Bill

- address ambiguity that exists regarding Internet advertising of tobacco products
- amend the *Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992* to clarify Internet advertising and include restrictions to Internet advertising at retail sites

Reason for legislation: to update and improve existing legislation

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Airports Amendment Bill

- give effect to the policy changes identified in the Aviation White Paper

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation and to implement policy changes articulated in the Aviation White Paper

Links to announcements: [Media Release of 10 April 2008](#); [Launch of the Aviation Green Paper](#); [Media Release of 6 August 2008](#); [Media Release of 16 December 2009](#)

Protection of the Sea Legislation Amendment Bill

- provide for progressive reductions of sulphur content of fuel oil used in ships
- provide legal protection for persons taking reasonable measures to prevent or minimise the effects of bunker oil pollution

Reason for legislation: to implement an international treaty which will enter into force in Australia on 1 July 2010 and to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

Industry Research and Development Amendment (R&D Tax Credit) Bill *

- replace administrative arrangements relating to the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Concession with administrative arrangements for a new R&D tax incentive

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009-10 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media release of 12 May 2009](#)

Australian Research Council Amendment Bill

- update funding limits in the special appropriation and insert a new funding cap for the last year of the forward budget estimates

Reason for legislation: to implement the *Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology Initiative* announced as an outcome of the 2020 Summit, to implement the new *Super Science Fellowships* scheme announced in the 2009 Federal Budget, to provide continued funding for National ICT Australia as well as to provide standard indexation to funding under the National Competitive Grants Program

Links to announcements: [Media release of 22 April 2009](#); [Media release of 15 December 2009](#)

Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill

- provide for faster and more economical enforcement of trade mark and design rights by extending the jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Court (FMC) to include trade mark and design matters, which will be exercisable by judicial officers who are currently Federal Magistrates when the FMC has been merged with the Federal Court under the Government's proposed restructure of the federal courts system
- provide a framework for patent and trade mark practices to incorporate

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

RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill *

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety Levies) Amendment Bill *

- provide funding for the establishment of a National Offshore Petroleum Regulator
- extend the role of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority to include the regulation of structural integrity for pipelines and wells
- put in place transitional arrangements for pipeline safety management plan levies in relation to designated coastal waters to allow time for the amendment of regulations by the States and the Northern Territory

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

Link to announcement: [Media release of 5 August 2009](#)

Gorgon Project Long-Term Liability Agreement Bill

- establish a legal basis for the Commonwealth to provide, jointly with Western Australia, an indemnity to the Gorgon Joint Venture Partners for long-term liability that could arise from the geological storage of Gorgon Liquefied Natural Gas Project carbon dioxide under Barrow Island

Reason for legislation: to implement a Government announcement

Link to announcement: [Media release of 17 August 2009](#)

TREASURY

Corporations Amendment (Financial Market Supervision Enhancements) Bill *

- establish a framework to provide for the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) to assume responsibility for supervision of Australia's domestically licensed financial markets

Reason for legislation: to implement the Government decision announced on 24 August 2009 to provide for ASIC to perform supervision of real-time trading on all of Australia's domestic licensed markets. This change will mean that ASIC will now be responsible for both supervision and enforcement of the laws against misconduct on Australia's financial markets

Link to announcement: [Media release of 24 August 2009](#)

Tax Laws Amendment (2010 Measures No. 1) Bill *

- give effect to the Government's 2008-09 Budget measure to provide funding for an optional superannuation clearing house service
- restrict the eligibility of the entrepreneurs' tax offset through the introduction of a family income test
- refine and clarify the rules in relation to consolidation and provide rules for the interaction between the consolidation regime and existing tax law provisions
- change thin capitalisation provisions to clarify how treasury shares, the previous business insurance asset known as excess market value over net assets and capitalised software costs will be recognised under the thin capitalisation provisions
- allow Australian Managed Investment Trusts to make an irrevocable election to treat gains and losses on disposal of eligible investments in shares, units in unit trusts and real property on capital account for taxation purposes, subject to appropriate integrity rules

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment, to implement 2008 and 2009

Budget decisions and to update and improve the operation of the existing legislation

Links to announcements: [Media Release No. 022 of 13 May 2008](#); [Media Release No. 050 of 13 May 2008](#) and [Media Release No. 048 of 13 May 2009](#); [Media Release No. 053 of 13 May 2008](#); [Media Release No. 048 of 12 May 2009](#); [Media Release No. 049 of 12 May 2009](#)

Corporations Amendment (Corporate Reporting Reform) Bill

- cut red tape in relation to unlisted public companies limited by guarantee, streamline parent entity reporting, provide greater flexibility for companies to pay dividends and to more easily change their year-end reporting dates

Reason for legislation: to improve the operation of existing legislation, improve Australia's corporate reporting framework and cut red tape for business

Link to announcement: [Media release of 4 December 2009](#); [Treasury website – Improving Australia's Corporate Reporting Framework](#)

Foreign Source Income Accruals Rules Bill (No. 1)

- repeal the foreign investment fund and deemed present entitlement provisions

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media Release No. 049 of 12 May 2009](#)

International Monetary Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 1)

- amend the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) Decision at Schedule 4 of the *International Monetary Agreements Act 1947* to reflect Australia's increased commitment and amendments to the NAB Decision

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Links to announcements: [Media release of 12 May 2009](#)

International Monetary Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 2)

- amend the *International Monetary Agreements Act 1947* to allow Australia to enter into a bilateral swap agreement where the majority of the agreed amount would be linked to an International Monetary Fund, World Bank or Asian Development Bank program, while allowing the remaining delinked portion to be accessed without a program

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Links to announcements: [Media release of 12 May 2009](#)

Taxation Laws (Transfer of Provisions) Bill

- rewrite provisions from the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* and the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*

Reason for legislation: to contribute to the Government commitment to complete the rewrite of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*

Link to announcement: [Speech to the Taxation Institute of Australia Annual Conference of 13 March 2009](#)

Tax Laws Amendment (2010 GST Compliance Cost Measures) Bill

- implement a number of Goods and Services Tax (GST) administration measures arising from the Board of Taxation's review of the legal framework for the administration of the GST

Reason for legislation: to implement reforms to reduce GST compliance costs and to streamline and remove anomalies in the GST law

Link to announcement: [Media Release No. 042 of 12 May 2009](#)

Tax Laws Amendment (2010 Measures No. 2) Bill

- remove redundant provisions allowing for unlimited amendment periods
- amend taxation of financial arrangements
- change the operation of Division 7A of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*
- extend the tax file number withholding tax requirements to closely held trusts and family trusts

Reason for legislation: to implement 2008 and 2009 Budget decisions and to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Links to announcements: [Media Release No. 053 of 13 May 2008](#); [Media Release No. 022 of 26 March 2009](#); [Media Release No. 067 of 12 May 2009](#); [Media Release No. 067 of 12 May 2009](#)

Tax Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill

- replace the current Research and Development (R&D) tax concession with a new R&D tax incentive that provides an increase in support to small/medium companies on a more timely basis

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2009 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media Release No. 062 of 12 May 2009](#)

Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Bill

- create the principal legislation for the Australian Consumer Law, based on the existing consumer protection and enforcement provisions of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and drawing on existing state and territory consumer protection laws and including new national product safety and statutory consumer guarantees provisions

Reason for legislation: to give effect to COAG's decision, under the *National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy*, to implement a national consumer policy framework by 1 January 2011

Links to announcements: [COAG communiqué of 2 October 2008](#); [MCCA communiqué of 15 August 2008](#); [MCAA communiqué of 4 December 2009](#); [Media release of 5 November 2009](#)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Income Support Measures) Bill

- amend veterans' entitlements law

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