



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION
IN THE 2013 SPRING SITTINGS**

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

AGRICULTURE

**Grape and Wine Legislation Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Bill *
Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Bill ***

Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Bill *

- merge the functions of the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation and the Wine Australia Corporation to create a new authority, the Australian Grape and Wine Authority

Reason for legislation: to implement the merger of the two statutory authorities following a request from wine industry representative bodies

Rural Research and Development Legislation Amendment *

Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment Bill *

Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Amendment Bill *

- amend a number of Acts related to the governance and funding of the rural research and development corporations

Reason for legislation: to improve the operation of existing legislation and deliver improved services to industry, reduce the burden of red tape on industry and lift productivity of rural industries

EDUCATION

Higher Education Support Amendment (Savings and Other Measures) Bill *

- amend the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to implement savings measures, involving the removal of the HECS-HELP upfront discount and voluntary HELP repayment bonus from 1 January 2014 and applying an efficiency dividend to Commonwealth contribution amounts in 2014 and 2015

Reason for legislation: to implement higher education savings measures

EMPLOYMENT

Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill *

- re-establish the Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner as a statutory agency under an amended *Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2012*

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [The Coalition's Policy to Improve the Fair Work Laws](#)

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill *

- amend the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* to introduce: higher penalties for breaches of current civil penalty provisions; some criminal penalties; and stricter reporting and disclosure obligations to align with those under the *Corporations Act 2001*
- amend the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* to establish a Registered Organisations Commission. The functions and powers of the Registered Organisations Commissioner will, in part, be transferred from current regulatory powers of the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission with additional powers provided to enhance their regulatory role

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [The Coalition's Policy for Better Transparency and Accountability of Registered Organisations](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

Customs Tariff Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

Excise Tariff Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

True-up Shortfall Levy (General) (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

True-up Shortfall Levy (Excise) (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill *

Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill *

Clean Energy (Income Tax Rates and Other Amendments) Bill * [Treasury bill]

Clean Energy Finance Corporation (Abolition) Bill * [Treasury bill]

- repeal the carbon tax, including equivalent carbon taxes applied through the fuel tax and excise systems and the synthetic greenhouse gas levies
- make consequential amendments and provides transitional arrangements for the end of the carbon tax;
- make minor amendments to related legislation to give effect to the repeal by removing references to carbon units and carbon tax reporting requirements
- repeal the *Steel Transformation Plan Act 2011*
- amend the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* to provide the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission with powers to monitor price exploitation arising from the repeal of the carbon tax

- abolish the Climate Change Authority, the Land Sector Carbon and the Biodiversity Board
- repeal the *Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act 2012* and transfer the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's assets and liabilities to the Commonwealth
- make related consequential amendments

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [Repealing the Carbon Tax - Exposure draft legislation](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill *

- strengthen the role of Infrastructure Australia as an independent, transparent and expert advisory body through a change in its governance structure and through better clarification of its functions in order to:
 - improve the level of independence between the organisation and Government
 - improve infrastructure planning and prioritisation on a national basis, thereby providing a more transparent, robust, evidence-based approach to allocating public funds to projects with the highest yielding productivity returns

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [The Coalition's Policy to Deliver the Infrastructure for the 21st Century](#)

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill *

- change the funding mechanism for payments from a Special Appropriation to an Annual Appropriation
- update the definition of 'funding year' to facilitate the implementation of new agreements from 1 January 2014

Reason for legislation: to update the operation of existing legislation

TREASURY

Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Amendment Bill *

- increase the legislative limit on Commonwealth Government Securities to \$500 billion

Reason for legislation: required for budget financing

Link to announcement: [Media release of 22 October 2013](#)

Minerals Resource Rent Tax Repeal and Other Measures Bill *

- repeal the Mineral Resource Rent Tax and related measures

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [Media release of 24 October 2013](#)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill

- exempt reimbursements made under the Repatriation and MRCA Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes from income tax, clarify travel arrangements for obtaining treatment and make minor technical amendments

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