

# ***ELECTION OF SENATORS AMENDMENT BILL 2001***

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the *Election of Senators Act 1903*, to bring the statutory timeframe provided in that Act for the nomination and polling of candidates for the Senate into conformity with the corresponding timeframe under the Commonwealth *Electoral Act 1918*. An inconsistency between the two Acts has arisen as a result of amendments to the Commonwealth Act.

Clause 4 of the Bill will amend subsection 3(2) of the Election of Senators Act, to provide that the date fixed for the nomination of candidates shall be not less than 10 nor more than 27 days after the date of the writ. That will be consistent with section 156(1) of the Commonwealth Act.

Clause 4 will also amend subsection 3(4) of the Election of Senators Act, to provide that the date fixed for the polling shall be not less than 23 nor more than 31 days after the date of nomination. That will be consistent with section 157 of the Commonwealth Act.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides that the amendments will come into effect on the day on which the Act receives the Royal Assent.