The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any objection to the motion being taken as formal?

Opposition senators: Yes.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is objection.

Motions

Vefamehr, Ms Marzieh

Senator HANSON-YOUNG (South Australia) (15:41): I move:

That the Senate expresses its deep concern for the welfare of Iranian actress Ms Marzieh Vefamehr who has been sentenced in Iran to one year in jail and 90 lashings for her role in the South Australian produced film My Tehran For Sale.

Question agreed to.

Asylum Seekers

Senator MILNE (Tasmania—Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens) (15:42): I seek leave to amend general business notice motion No. 421 standing in my name for today, relating to the sinking of the SIEV X. Before asking that it be taken as a formal motion, I note that the amendment includes the addition of Senators Moore and Humphries as cosponsors of the motion.

Leave granted.

Senator MILNE: I amend the motion in the terms circulated in the chamber and ask that it be taken as formal.

Senator FIFIELD (Victoria—Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate) (15:43): Deputy President, could we seek a copy of that just to confirm that this copy I have is the relevant motion?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: To clarify: Senator Milne, this is notice No. 421?

Senator MILNE: It is.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The amendment included the names of Senators Humphries and Moore—is that correct?

Senator FIFIELD: No, not in what has been circulated.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Milne, there seems to be some discrepancy as to the amendment that has been circulated in the chamber. Would you clarify the exact nature of the amendment to 421?

Senator MILNE: I withdraw additional cosponsors if there is some question about it. I had been informed that they had cosponsored it. If that is not the case, I withdraw their names and propose the motion with the amended date.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Has that been circulated?

Senator Hanson-Young interjecting—

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Okay. To clarify: Senator Milne is moving notice of motion No. 421 as it stands with the date amendment. Is there any objection to that motion being taken as formal with that amendment? There being no objection, leave is granted.

Senator MILNE: I, and also on behalf of Senator Hansen-Young, move the motion as amended:

That the Senate—

(a) recalls, with regret, that on 19 October 2001, the SIEV X carrying approximately 400 asylum seekers sank on its way to Australia, resulting in the drowning of 146 children, 142 women and 65 men and only 41 people survived; and

(b) notes that:

(i) in interviews with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, survivors told of the involvement of the Indonesian military in the boarding and organising of the voyage,

(ii) survivors reported that they saw two military vessels appear, shine lights on the water and sail away,

(iii) HMAS Arunta stood 4 hours away,

(iv) Australia maintained a People Smuggling Disruption Program in the region at the time,

(v) the Australian listening station at Shoal Bay was operational at the time, and

(vi) many outstanding serious questions remain about the failure to rescue desperate people in the water and must be answered in the interest of justice and humanity; and

(c) calls on the Government to establish a judicial inquiry into the SIEV X, subsequent investigations in the SIEV X tragedy and all circumstances pertaining to its voyage, loss and rescue of survivors.

Question put.

The Senate divided. [15:49]
Olympic Dam

Senator LUDLAM (Western Australia) (15:51): I move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the approval given by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Mr Burke) for the Olympic Dam uranium mine expansion,

(ii) that the proposal will lead to the dumping of 70 million tonnes of carcinogenic radioactive tailings every year on the surface, with no requirement for isolation of radioactive tailings waste from the environment for at least 10,000 years nor for disposal of tailings into the pit as is required at the Ranger uranium mine,

(iii) that assessment criteria for the Mine Closure Plan will be drafted by BHP Billiton and conditions for long-term surface management of the tailings are yet to be decided between BHP Billiton and the Commonwealth,

(iv) that the proposal will create a pit 4.5 km long, 3.5 km wide and 1 km deep with no plans for rehabilitation of this pit at the closing of mine operations,

(v) that by 2020, the tailings storage facility will leak up to 8 million litres of liquid radioactive waste a day into regional groundwater,

(vi) that the project will generate at least 4.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year for decades, and

(vii) that the sale of uranium in bulk concentrates is not sanctioned under Australia’s bilateral uranium sales agreements, a treaty has yet to be negotiated with China, put to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties for inquiry and thereafter to the Australian Parliament; and

(b) calls on the government to reverse this decision in the light of BHP Billiton’s decision to proceed with ‘world’s worst practice’ uranium mining.

Question put.

The Senate divided. [15:53]

BILLS

Clean Energy Bill 2011
Clean Energy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011
Clean Energy (Income Tax Rates Amendments) Bill 2011
Clean Energy (Household Assistance Amendments) Bill 2011
Clean Energy (Tax Laws Amendments) Bill 2011
Clean Energy (Fuel Tax Legislation Amendment) Bill 2011