



Private Senator's Bill Process

1. Senator McKenzie lists a Notice of Motion which will encompass the short and long title of the Bill the week of the 18th November 2024. The motion will state when the Bill (*National Organic Standard Bill 2024*) will be introduced.
2. After introduction the date for debate on the Bill will be set by a committee. The introduction of the Bill took place on 18 November, was read into the Senate on 19 November and is expected to be debated during the February 2025 sitting.
3. The debate will include speeches on the Bill from the Coalition, and likely other senate representatives who may speak in favour or against the Bill. There may be amendments.
4. The Bill may be referred to a senate inquiry, depending on support in the Senate.

FAQ's

Q. Why is this being introduced in the Senate?

A. The Coalition have shown support for the introduction of a regulatory framework for the use of the term organic within Australia. However, because the government has not supported this policy it is being introduced as a Coalition backed private senator's bill in the Senate.

Q. What is a private senator's bill?

A. A private senator's bill is a bill introduced by a non-government senator. The historic success of private senator's bills becoming legislation is low, however they do help highlight a particular issue.

Q. The Bill has been listed, what does that mean?

A. This means that the Bill is now on the notice paper for Senate business. Once it is listed the title of the Bill will be read in the Senate (known as the First Reading) this is a formal process acknowledging the Bill within the Senate.

Q. What happens after the Bill has been read in the Senate?

A. The Bill will be debated (known formally as the second reading) however when the Bill will be debated will be determined by the Senate. Once confirmed the Bill will be placed on the Notice Paper (Senate's agenda for that day).

Q. Can I access the Notice Paper?

A. Yes, the notice paper for each day in the Senate is released approximately one hour before the Senate begins. It can be found online [here](#).

Q. There are no times given for the Bill to be debated how will I know when the Bill will be debated?



A. It will depend on how quickly the Senate gets through the business of the day, as well as any other business it failed to complete during earlier sitting days. Once there is a set date for the Bill to be debated, we will monitor and update members on approximate times.

Q. What happens if the Bill is not debated on its proposed date?

A. Sometimes, due to the business of the Senate, Bills that were scheduled to be debated on a particular date are not debated. This is usually due to sudden business arising that the Senate must consider instead, or unfinished business from previous sitting days being considered instead.

If the Bill is not debated on its assigned day then it will be assigned a different date during the next sitting of the Senate. If the Bill is not debated, we will work with key political stakeholders to ensure that it is debated at the next opportunity.

As an organic industry member you may also wish to engage with your local representatives.

Q. How long will the Bill take to progress through the Senate?

A. Depends on other Senate business, how many Senators plan on speaking on the Bill, and whether there is enough support to ensure the Bill can be debated in the Senate (this will take place if the Coalition plus 9 of the Greens/Crossbench support).

Q. What happens if there are amendments to the Bill proposed in the Senate?

A. With enough support from the Coalition and the Greens the Bill should pass the Senate without any amendments to its present state.

Q. What happens if the bill passes the Senate?

A. The Bill would go to the House of Representatives where it would be debated and potentially passed assuming bipartisan support. However potentially the Bill will be sent to a Senate Committee for review, if this is supported in the Senate.

Q. Will I be able to write a submission?

A. If there is a senate inquiry you will be able to provide a submission privately, or on behalf of an organisation.

Q. Doesn't the Bill need support of the Government?

A. Yes, the Bill will need support from the Government, however a potential inquiry into the Bill will allow stakeholders within the organic industry to reach out to the Government to promote support for the Bill.

Q. Apart from providing a submission, how can I support the Bill?

A. The ODG, encourages all members interested in showing support to reach out to their local member to show your support. If you live in a non-government electorate, we encourage you to directly contact the Minister for Agriculture, Julie Collins MP and the Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Senator Anthony Chisholm to express support.



Please see the contact details for Minister Collins [here](#) and for Assistant Minister Chisholm [here](#).

As it is critically important to involve the current government in this process and gain their support, we welcome members who live in current Labor electorates to reach out to the above Ministers as well.

Q. How else can the industry assist with getting support for the Bill?

A. The industry should communicate this outcome and Bill widely through their membership to get on-ground support from current organic operators and gather data on what it means to businesses by having domestic regulation, such as new markets with less audits if equivalency is gained.