Finding a Bill’s Introduction Date

To locate a Bill’s introduction and its speeches/debates in Hansard, firstly identify the date that the Bill was introduced, or the date of the second reading speech.

Two ways of finding these dates is via the Federal Register of Legislation.

Locate the Legislation Register via the Commonwealth legislation page in the Law Guide.
Searching the Bills

You can find a Bill’s introduction date on the page of the Bill’s record.

Click on the Bills As Introduced tile to search for the Bill.
In our example, we will use the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill 1998.

Click on the Bill title’s letter – En

Next, click on the link to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill 1998.
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill 1998 [1999]

On the Bill’s page, click on the link DETAILS to expand the information.

Note the Bill’s introduction date.
You can also search the Act as Made for dates

In this example, we will use the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Select the **Acts as Made** link from the left hand side navigation bar. Find this under the link, **Acts**

Type the Act title into the search box. Click the **Apply Filter** button to load the result.
Note the Dates

Scroll to the end of the Act and note the dates of the second reading speeches

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

No. 91, 1999

An Act relating to the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity, and for related purposes

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Proceed to Search Hansard

The next step is to search Hansard for the Bill’s introduction and the speeches and debates.

Remember to take note of the introduction date of the Bill or the second reading speech dates located at the end of the Act as Made.