

[Home](#) » [National](#) » [Breaking News](#) » Article

## AWB legislation may delay stem cell vote

November 28, 2006 - 6:54AM

The Cole report could delay a vote on controversial legislation to lift the ban on therapeutic cloning.

Debate on Liberal senator Kay Patterson's private members' bill had been due to begin in the House of Representatives on Thursday, after it narrowly passed the Senate earlier this month.

The bill, which would allow scientists to clone embryos to extract their stem cells for medical research, had been expected to come to a conscience vote in the House next week.

But it may be delayed while parliament deals with urgent legislation sparked by the Cole inquiry.

The government is fast-tracking laws giving a new taskforce access to documents which could pave the way for charges against former AWB staff over the Iraqi kickbacks scandal.


Commissioner Terence Cole has recommended 11 former AWB executives and an oil businessman be investigated by the taskforce for possible criminal offences.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock says the government wants the laws passed before parliament rises for the summer break at the end of next week.

That has put the stem cell vote in doubt, as the government wants all time-critical government legislation cleared out before Senator Patterson's bill is debated.

A Labor caucus spokeswoman said the opposition was seeking more information on the possible timing of the bill.

© 2006 [AAP](#)

Brought to you by  aap

---

**When you see news happening:** SMS/MMS: 0406 THE AGE (0406 843 243), or [email](#) us. [More](#)

---

[Subscribe to The Age and celebrate the New Year with Leunig](#)

Copyright © 2006. The Age Company Ltd.