

**THE SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF
OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES
TO REPORTS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
JOINT COMMITTEES**

(also incorporating reports tabled and
details of Government responses made in the period between
8 December 2005, the date of the last schedule, and 22 June 2006)

22 June 2006

THE SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE REPORTS

On 22 June 2006, the Government presented its response to a schedule of outstanding Government responses to parliamentary committee reports tabled in the House of Representatives on 8 December 2005.

It is Government policy to respond to parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation. In 1978 the Fraser Government implemented a policy of responding in the House by ministerial statement within six months of the tabling of a committee report. In 1983, the Hawke Government reduced this response time to three months but continued the practice of responding by ministerial statement. The Keating Government generally responded by means of a letter to a committee chair, with the letter being tabled in the House at the earliest opportunity. In 1996, the Howard Government affirmed the commitment to respond to relevant parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation. The Government also undertook to clear, as soon as possible, the backlog of reports arising from previous Parliaments.

The attached schedule lists committee reports tabled and government responses to House and joint committee reports made since the last schedule was presented on 8 December 2006. It also lists reports for which the House has received no government response. A schedule of outstanding responses will continue to be presented at approximately six monthly intervals, generally in the last sitting weeks of the winter and spring sittings.

The schedule does not include advisory reports on bills introduced into the House of Representatives unless the reports make recommendations which are wider than the provisions of the bills and which could be the subject of a government response. The Government's response to these reports is apparent in the resumption of consideration of the relevant legislation by the House. Also not included are reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, the House of Representatives Committee of Members' Interests, the Committee of Privileges, the Publications Committee (other than reports on inquiries) and the Selection Committee. Government responses to reports of the Public Works Committee are normally reflected in motions for the approval of works after the relevant report has been presented and considered. Reports from other committees which do not include recommendations are only included when first tabled.

Reports of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit primarily make administrative recommendations but may make policy recommendations. A government response is required in respect of such policy recommendations made by the committee. However, responses to administrative recommendations are made in the form of an Executive Minute provided to, and subsequently tabled by, the committee. Agencies responding to administrative recommendations are required to provide an Executive Minute within 6 months of tabling a report. The committee monitors the provision of such responses. The schedule only includes reports with policy recommendations.

22 June 2006

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (House, Standing)			
Unlocking the future: The report of the Inquiry into the Reeves Review of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>	30-08-99	No response to date	No
Many ways forward: Report of the inquiry into capacity building and service delivery in indigenous communities	21-06-04	No response to date ⁴	No
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (House, Standing)			
Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities – Interim Report	05-05-04	No response to date ⁵	No
Getting water right(s) – The future of rural Australia	21-06-04	No response to date ⁵	No
Taking control: a national approach to pest animals	28-11-05	No response to date ⁵	No
ASIO, ASIS and DSD (Joint, Statutory)			
Private review of agency security arrangements	13-10-03	No response to date ⁶	No
ASIO's Questioning and Detention Powers - Review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of Division 3 Part III of the <i>ASIO Act 1979</i>	30-11-05	29-03-06	No
Australian Crime Commission (Joint, Statutory)			
Cybercrime	24-03-04	09-02-06	No
Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	24-06-04	No response to date ⁶	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Supplementary report to the Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	11-08-05	No response to date ⁷	No
Review of the <i>Australian Crime Commission Act 2002</i>	10-11-05	No response to date ⁶	No
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (House, Standing)			
From reel to unreal: future opportunities for Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries	21-06-04	No response to date ⁸	No
Digital Television: Who's Buying It?	13-02-06	No response to date ⁹	No
Corporations and Securities (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on aspects of the regulation of proprietary companies	08-03-01	No response to date ¹⁰	No
Corporations and Financial Services (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on the regulations and ASIC policy statements made under the <i>Financial Services Reform Act 2001</i>	23-10-02	No response to date ¹¹	No
Inquiry into the review of the <i>Managed Investments Act 1998</i>	12-12-02	No response to date ¹²	No
Inquiry into Regulation 7.1.29 in Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No.3), Statutory Rules 2003 No.85	26-06-03	No response to date ¹¹	No
Money matters in the bush-Inquiry into the level of banking & financial services in rural, regional & remote areas of Australia	15-01-04	No response to date ¹³	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Report on the ATM fee structure	15-01-04	No response to date ¹⁴	No
Corporations amendment regulations 2003	24-03-04	No response to date ¹¹	No
Corporations Amendment Regulations 7.1.29A, 7.1.35A and 7.1.40(h)	02-06-04	No response to date ¹¹	No
Exposure draft of the Corporations Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2005	16-06-05	08-12-05	No
Property Investment Advice – Safe as Houses?	23-06-05	No response to date ¹⁵	No
Timeshare: The Price of Leisure	05-09-05	No response to date ¹⁶	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission	13-02-06	No response to date	No
Corporate responsibility: Managing risk and creating value	21-06-06	Time has not expired	
Economics, Finance and Public Administration (House, Standing)			
Numbers on the run: Review of the ANAO Report no. 37 1998-1999 on the management of Tax File Numbers	28-08-00	No response to date ¹⁷	No
Review of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 2003	21-06-04	No response to date ¹⁸	No
Improving the superannuation savings of people under 40	19-06-06	Time has not expired	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Electoral Matters (Joint, Standing)			
The 2004 Federal Election: Report of the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2004 Federal Election and Matters Related Thereto	10-10-05	No response to date ¹⁹	No
Funding and Disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates	30-03-06	Time has not expired	
Employment and Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation (House, Standing)			
Working for Australia's future: increasing participation in the work force	14-03-05	No response to date ²⁰	No
Making it work: Inquiry into independent contracting and labour hire arrangements	17-08-05	No response to date ²¹	No
Environment and Heritage (House, Standing)			
Public good conservation: Our challenge for the 21 st century	27-09-01	No response to date ²²	No
Sustainable cities	12-09-05	No response to date ²²	No
Family and Community Services (House, Standing)			
Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities	08-09-03	No response to date ²²	No
Family and Human Services (House, Standing)			
Overseas Adoption in Australian: Report on the inquiry into adoption of children from overseas	21-11-05	No response to date ²³	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)			
Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Strategy	21-06-04	25-05-06	No
Australia's engagement with the World Trade Organisation	09-06-04	16-02-06	No
Reform of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights	12-09-05	No response required	
Australia's Human Rights Dialogue Process	12-09-05	02-03-06	No
Review of the Defence Annual Report 2003-04	10-10-05	27-03-06	No
Report of the Delegation to the United States 28 June to 13 July 2005	11-10-05	No response required	
Australia's free trade agreements with Singapore, Thailand and the United States: progress to date and lessons for the future	07-11-05	No response to date ²⁴	No
Parliamentary delegation visit to Australian Defence Forces deployed to support the rehabilitation of Iraq - 22 to 28 October 2005	22-05-06	No response required	
Australia's Defence Relations with the United States	22-05-06	Time has not expired	
Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with North Africa	22-05-06	Time has not expired	
Industry, Science and Resources (House, Standing)			
Getting a better return: Inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials second report	24-09-01	No response to date ²⁵	No

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Intelligence and Security (Joint, Statutory)			
Review of the listing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)	26-04-06	Time has not expired	
Legal and Constitutional Affairs (House, Standing)			
The third paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution	30-11-95	No response to date	No
Modern-day usage of averments in customs prosecutions	31-05-04	09-05-06	No
Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime	11-08-04	No response to date ²⁶	No
Exposure Draft of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005	18-08-05	08-12-05	No
Review of technological protection measures exceptions	01-03-06	No response to date	No
Migration (Joint, Standing)			
Review of Audit Report No. 1 2005-2006: Management of Detention Centre Contracts Part B	05-12-05	No response to date ²⁷	No
National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)			
Norfolk Island electoral matters	26-08-02	No response to date ²⁸	No
Antarctica: Australia's Pristine Frontier. Report on the adequacy of funding for Australia's Antarctic Program	23-06-05	No response to date ²²	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Norfolk Island Financial Sustainability: The Challenge – Sink or Swim	01-12-05	No response to date ²⁸	No
Current and future governance arrangements for the Indian Ocean Territories	13-06-06	Time has not expired	
Native Title and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Land Account (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on the operation of Native Title Representative bodies	21-03-06	No response to date	No
Examination of annual reports 2004-2005	21-03-06	No response to date	No
Procedure (House, Standing)			
Arrangements for second reading speeches	01-12-03	07-12-05	No
House Estimates: consideration of the annual estimates by the House of Representatives	13-10-03	No response to date ²⁹	No
Media coverage of House proceedings including the Chamber, Main committee and committees (Final report)	10-10-05	No response to date ²⁹	No
Maintenance of the Standing and Sessional Orders – (First report)	27-03-06	29-03-06 ³⁰	Yes
Public Accounts and Audit (Joint, Statutory)			
Corporate governance and accountability arrangements for Commonwealth government business enterprises, December 1999 (Report No. 372)	16-02-00	No response to date ³¹	No
Access of indigenous Australians to law and justice services (Report No. 403)	22-06-05	02-03-06	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Review of auditor-general's report 2003-2004: Third and fourth quarters; and first and second quarters of 2004-2005 (Report 404)	07-12-05	No response to date ³²	No
Annual report 2004-2005 (Report 405)	28-11-05	No response required	
Developments in aviation security since the committee's June 2004 <i>Report 400: Review of aviation security in Australia – An interim report</i> (Report 406)	07-12-05	No response to date ³³	No
Publications (Joint, Standing)			
Distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series	29-05-06	Time has not expired	
Science and Innovation (House, Standing)			
Second report of the inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials	24-09-01	No response to date	No
Pathways to technological innovation	19-06-06	Time has not expired	
Transport and Regional Services (House, Standing)			
Regional aviation and island transport services: Making ends meet	01-12-03	No response to date ³⁴	No
Ship salvage	21-06-04	No response to date ³⁵	No
Treaties (Joint, Standing)			
The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (61st Report)	23-06-04	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (previously tabled in May and June 2004) (63 rd Report)	14-12-04	No response to date	No
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (3) and 8 February 2005 (65 th Report)	20-06-05	No response to date ³⁶	No
Review of treaties tabled 7 December 2004 (4), 15 March and 11 May 2005 (66 th Report)	17-08-05	No response required	
Treaties tabled on 13 September and 11 October 2005 (69 th Report)	05-12-05	No response required	
Treaty tabled on 9 November 2005 (70 th Report)	06-12-05	No response required	
Review of Treaty tabled on 29 November 2005 (71 st Report)	27-02-06	No response to date	No
Review of Treaties tabled on 29 November 2005 (2) (72 nd Report)	28-03-06	Time has not expired	
Review of Treaties tabled in February 2006 (73 rd Report)	10-05-06	Time has not expired	
Review of Treaty tabled on 28 March 2006 (74 th Report)	29-05-06	Time has not expired	

These notes reflect the response circulated by the Leader of the House on 7 December 2005 entitled "Government Responses to Parliamentary Committee reports. Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 22 June 2006".

1. The date of tabling is the date the report was presented to the House of Representatives. In the case of joint committees, the date shown is the date of first presentation to either the House or the Senate. Reports published when the House (or Houses) are not sitting are tabled at a later date.
2. If the source for the date is not the *Votes and Proceedings* of the House of Representatives or the *Journals of the Senate*, the source is shown in an endnote.
3. The time specified is three months from the date of tabling.
4. A consolidated draft government response has been prepared with input from relevant agencies. The response will be finalised for tabling as soon as possible.
5. The response is in the final stages of clearance and is expected to be tabled in the near future.
6. A response is being considered by the government and is expected to be tabled shortly.
7. The response to the original report is to be finalised prior to issuing a response to this supplementary report.
8. The government is finalising its response to the report.
9. The government is continuing to prepare a response to the report. It is expected the response will be tabled shortly.
10. The response is being finalised and will be tabled in the near future.
11. The government continues to respond to this report through changes to the Corporations Regulations and ongoing proposals to make further refinements to the regulation of financial services based on public comment. A response to this report will be tabled following implementation of these changes to the law.
12. Substantial changes to financial services regulations are currently being implemented. The impact of these changes on the operation of managed investment schemes will have to be evaluated. A response to the report will be provided in due course.
13. The response will be finalised as soon as possible.
14. The response to this report is to be included with the response to the report on 'Money Matters in the Bush'.
15. The government is considering the recommendations of the Committee and will table a response in due course. However, before finalising and tabling its response the government believes it is important to consider any recommendations made by the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs (MCCA) working party that is currently investigating property investment advice. The MCCA working party is due to report shortly.

16. The government is currently considering the recommendations and a response will be provided in due course.
17. The Numbers on the Run Review was overtaken by the Australian National Audit Office in report no. 47 of 2004-2005, which was tabled on 31 May 2005.
18. A consolidated draft response is being considered and a response will be tabled in due course.
19. The Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Electoral Integrity and Other Measures) Bill 2006, which was introduced into the Parliament on 8 December 2005, gives effect to the government's response to a number of the Committee's recommendations which the government considers to be a priority. The government is considering the remaining recommendations and will table its full response to the report in due course.
20. The government response has been finalised and will be tabled as soon as practicable.
21. The government is considering its response in the context of the recently announced Independent Contractors Bill. A response will be tabled shortly.
22. A response is being drafted and will be tabled in due course.
23. The government's response is under consideration and is expected to be tabled shortly.
24. The government's response is under consideration.
25. The government response is in the final stages of clearance and is expected to be tabled shortly.
26. The response has been finalised and is in the final stages of clearance.
27. The proposed response is currently being prepared and will be finalised as soon as possible.
28. A response will be considered once the government has made a decision on the future governance arrangements for Norfolk Island.
29. A response is being drafted and will be tabled in due course.
30. Recommendations implemented by the House by amendment to the standing orders.
31. The government is considering its response to outstanding recommendations and a response will be tabled in due course.
32. The response is being prepared and will be finalised as soon as possible.
33. As agreed with the Committee, the Department of Transport and Regional Services provided a letter dated 16 February 2006, acknowledging the interim report. A response will be provided when the final report is tabled.
34. The government is continuing to consider its draft response to the committee in light of development in the aviation sector.

35. Following completion of Australian Transport Council processes, a draft government response has been developed and circulated to all relevant agencies for comments. The final response is expected to be tabled in the next parliamentary session.
36. The government response is being finalised and will be tabled in due course.