

**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
23 June 2004, the date of the last schedule, and 9 December 2004)

9 December 2004

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

On 9 December 2004, the Government presented its response to a schedule of outstanding Government responses to parliamentary committee reports tabled in the House of Representatives on 24 June 2004.

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 24 June 2004. 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 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 not included.

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 includes reports with policy recommendations.

9 December 2004

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 ⁴	No
Many ways forward: Report of the inquiry into capacity building and service delivery in indigenous communities	21-06-04	No response to date ⁵	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 ⁶	No
Getting water right(s) – The future of rural Australia	21-06-04	No response to date ⁷	No
ASIO, ASIS and DSD (Joint, Statutory)			
Private review of agency security arrangements	13-10-03	No response to date ⁸	No
Intelligence on Iraq's weapon of mass destruction	01-03-04	No response required	
Annual Report of Committee Activities 2002-2003	16-06-04	No response required	No
Review of listing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)	16-06-04	No response required	No
Australian Crime Commission (Joint, Statutory)			
Cybercrime	24-03-04	No response to date ⁹	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	24-06-04	No response to date ¹⁰	No
Examination of the annual report for 2003-04 of the National Crime Authority and the Australian Crime Commission	24-06-04	No response to date	No
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (House, Standing)			
Connecting Australia! Wireless broadband	11-11-02	No response to date ¹¹	No
From reel to unreal: future opportunities for Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries	21-06-04	No response to date ¹²	No
Review of the Special Broadcasting Service annual report 2002-03	21-06-04	No response required	
Corporations and Securities (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on aspects of the regulation of proprietary companies	08-03-01	No response to date ¹³	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 ¹⁴	No
Inquiry into the review of the <i>Managed Investments Act 1998</i>	12-12-02	No response to date ¹⁵	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 ¹⁴	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
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 ¹⁶	No
Report on the ATM fee structure	15-01-04	No response to date ¹⁶	No
Corporations amendment regulations 2003	24-03-04	No response to date ¹⁷	No
Corporations Amendment Regulations 7.1.29A, 7.1.35A and 7.1.40(h)	02-06-04	No response to date ¹⁴	No
CLERP (Audit Reform and Disclosure) Bill 2003-Part 1: Enforcement, executive remuneration, continuous disclosure, shareholder participation and related matters	04-06-04	No response to date ¹⁸	No
CLERP (Audit Reform and Disclosure) Bill 2003-Part 2: Financial reporting and audit reform	15-06-04	No response to date ¹⁸	No
Corporate insolvency laws – A stocktake	30-06-04	No response to date	No
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 ¹⁹	No
Rates and Taxes: A fair share for responsible local government	24-11-03	No response to date ²⁰	
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia annual report 2002-2003 – Interim report	22-03-04	No response required	
Review of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 2003	21-06-04	No response to date ²¹	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Annual Report 2003</i>	12-08-04	No response to date	No
Education and Training (House, Standing)			
Learning to work: Report on the inquiry into vocational education in schools	29-03-04	No response to date ¹⁸	No
Employment and Workplace Relations (House, Standing)			
Back on the job: Report into aspects of Australian workers compensation schemes	02-06-03	17-11-04	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
Employment in the environment sector: Methods, measurements and messages	01-12-03	No response to date ²³	No
Family and Community Affairs (House, Standing)			
Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities	08-09-03	No response to date ²⁴	No
Every picture tells a story: Report on the inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation	29-12-03	No response to date ²⁵	No
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)			
Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Solomon Islands, 17-18 December 2003	06-05-04	No response required	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Near Neighbours - Good Neighbours: An inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Indonesia	31-05-04	No response to date ²⁶	No
Report of the Parliamentary delegation to the Gulf States	21-06-04	No response to date ²⁷	No
Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Strategy	21-06-04	No response to date ²⁸	No
Inquiry into human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region	24-06-04	No response to date	No
Watching brief on the War on Terrorism	29-06-04	02-12-04	No
Australia's engagement with the World Trade Organisation	30-06-04	No response to date	No
Review of the Defence Annual report 2002-2003	11-08-04	No response to date ²¹	No
Industry and Resources (House, Standing)			
Exploring: Australia's future impediments to increasing investment in minerals and petroleum exploration in Australia	15-09-03	No response to date ²⁹	No
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 ¹⁸	No
Legal and Constitutional Affairs (House, Standing)			
The third paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution	30-11-95	No response to date ²²	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Modern-day usage of averments in customs prosecutions	31-05-04	No response to date ³⁰	No
Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment (Anti-avoidance and other measures Bill 2004)	23-07-04	No response to date	No
Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime	11-08-04	No response to date	No
Migration (Joint, Standing)			
To make a contribution: review of skilled migration	29-03-04	No response to date ²¹	No
National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)			
In the pink or in the red? Health services on Norfolk Island	06-07-01	No response to date ³¹	No
Norfolk Island electoral matters	26-08-02	No response to date ³²	No
Inquiry into pay parking in the parliamentary zone	13-10-03	29-11-04	No
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island	03-12-03	No response to date ³³	No
Norfolk Island – Review of the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of the Environment and Heritage (Australia’s external territories)	02-07-04	No response to date	No
A national capital, a place to live: Inquiry into the Role of the National Capital Authority	02-07-04	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Difficult Choices: Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority in determining the extent of redevelopment of the Pierces Creek Settlement in the ACT	31-08-04	No response to date	No
Indian Ocean Territories – Review of the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of the Environment and Heritage (Australia’s external territories)	31-08-04	No response to date	No
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund (Joint, Statutory)			
Nineteenth Report: Second interim report for the s.206(d) Inquiry - Indigenous Land Use Agreements	26-09-01	No response to date ³⁴	No
The effectiveness of the National Native Title Tribunal	04-12-03	No response to date ²⁹	No
Examination of Annual Reports 2002-2003	24-06-04	No response to date	No
Procedure (House, Standing)			
Balancing tradition and progress: Procedures for the opening of Parliament	27-08-01	No response to date ²²	No
Sessional Order 344	18-06-03	24-06-04	No
Revised Standing Orders	24-11-03	24-06-04	No
Arrangements for second reading speeches	01-12-03	No response to date ²²	No
Trial of additional tellers	01-12-03	No response required	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Renaming the Main Committee: Celebrating the 10 th anniversary of the Main Committee	03-06-04	No response to date ³⁵	No
Arrangements for joint meetings with the Senate	21-06-04	No response to date ³⁶	No
Media coverage of House proceedings including the Chamber, Main committee and committees	09-08-04	No response to date	No
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 ³⁷	No
Review of Independent Auditing by Registered Company Auditors (Report No. 391)	18-09-02	No response to date ³⁸	No
Inquiry into the draft financial framework legislation Amendment Bill (Report No. 395)	20-08-03	03-08-04	No
Review of Auditor-General's Reports 2002-03: Fourth Quarter (Report 398)	30-03-04	23-11-04	No
Inquiry into the Management and Integrity of Electronic Information in the Commonwealth (Report No. 399)	01-04-04	No response to date ³⁹	No
Review of Aviation Security in Australia (Report No. 400)	24-06-04	No response to date	No
Annual Report 2003-2004 (Report No. 401)	11-08-04	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Review of Auditor-General's Reports, 2003-2004, First and Second Quarters (Report No. 402)	12-08-04	No response to date	No
Recent Australian Bushfires (House, Select)			
A nation charred: Inquiry into the recent Australian bushfires	05-11-03	No response to date ⁴⁰	No
Science and Innovation (House, Standing)			
Science overcoming salinity: Coordinating and extending the science to address the nation's salinity problem	21-06-04	No response to date ⁴¹	No
Transport and Regional Services (House, Standing)			
Moving on intelligent transport systems	09-12-02	No response to date ¹⁹	No
Regional aviation and island transport services: Making ends meet	01-12-03	No response to date ³⁰	No
National road safety – Eyes on the road ahead	21-06-04	No response to date ¹²	No
Ship salvage	21-06-04	No response to date ⁴²	No
Train illumination	24-06-04	No response to date	No
Treaties (Joint, Standing)			
Treaties tabled May and June 2003 (53 rd Report)	19-08-03	02-12-04	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Treaties tabled June and August 2003 (54 th Report)	17-09-03	No response required	No
Treaties tabled 9 September 2003 (55 th Report)	16-10-03	02-12-04	No
Treaties tabled 8 on October 2003 (56 th Report)	01-12-03	12-08-04	No
Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 and the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Security Code (57 th Report)	04-12-03	No response to date ⁴³	No
Optional and protocol to the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (58 th Report)	23-03-04	No response required	No
Treaties tabled in December 2003 (59 th Report)	31-03-04	No response required	No
Treaties tabled on 2 March 2004 – Consular agreement with Vietnam, World Tourism Organization, Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunications Union, Withdrawal from International Fund for Agricultural Development (60 th Report)	16-06-04	02-12-04	No
The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (61 st Report)	23-06-04	No response to date ⁴⁴	No
Treaties tabled 30 March 2004 (62 nd Report)	05-08-04	No response required	

These notes reflect the response circulated by the Leader of the House on 25 June 2004 entitled "Government Responses to Parliamentary Committee reports. Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 9 December 2004".

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. The government is considering reforms to the Act in light of broader reforms to Indigenous affairs and expects amendments to the Act to be introduced in 2005.
5. The report is being examined by a number of departments and agencies for the preparation of a consolidated response.
6. The response to the report is being finalised. Outstanding issues arising from the interim report will be responded to as part of the response to the final report.
7. A final response is being prepared and will be tabled shortly.
8. The government is finalizing its response to the report.
9. The government is currently considering the recommendations of the report, with a view to tabling a response in early 2005.
10. The response to the report is nearing completion and a response will be tabled as soon as possible.
11. The government is still considering its response.
12. The government is currently preparing a response.
13. The government is considering the recommendations and a response will be tabled as soon as possible.
14. The government is restructuring its response to this report to take into account responses for two other related reports. The comprehensive combined response will be tabled shortly.
15. The government is considering its response, which is affected by recent corporate governance law reforms, and will be tabled in due course.
16. The response is currently being updated to reflect election commitments and is expected to be tabled shortly.
17. The response is being prepared and is expected to be tabled in due course.

18. The report is being considered and a response will be tabled in due course.
19. It is expected that a response will be tabled shortly.
20. The response requires consideration of broad local government policy issues and consultation with a wide range of interested parties. State and Territory governments, the Australian Local Government Association and state and territory local government associations have all been consulted on the report. A response is expected to be tabled in the first half of 2005.
21. The response is in the process of being finalised and is expected to be tabled shortly.
22. A response will be tabled in due course.
23. Consultations are progressing. A response will be tabled in due course.
24. A response is currently being finalised and will require extensive consultation at the ministerial level and across portfolios. A response is expected to be tabled in early 2005.
25. In the Prime Minister's statement of 29 July, in response to the report *Every Picture Tells a Story*, the Government proposed to establish new Family Relationship Centres across the country to provide information, advice and dispute resolution to help parents reach agreement on resolving disputes without going to court. Changes were also proposed to the *Family Law Act 1975* affecting the parenting responsibilities of couples, and to reduce the adversarial nature of family law cases.

The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of a Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support to review the operations of the child support system.

A formal response to the report will be made available in due course.

26. The response will be finalised shortly.
27. The government does not propose to respond to the report of the visit but will respond to the recommendations in the final report of the Inquiry into Expanding Australia's Trade and Investment Relationship with the Economies of the Gulf States.
28. The consultation process is being finalised and a response will be tabled in due course.
29. A response is being finalised and will be tabled as soon as possible.
30. The government is currently considering its response.
31. Since this report was tabled the Committee has tabled the first part of its Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island (December 2003) and proposes to finalise the second part of that inquiry, considering the financial sustainability of the Island, in 2005. As many of the issues raised in "In the Pink or in the Red?" will be considered under the Governance Inquiry's two reports, it is not intended to respond further to this report.
32. Consultation on the response is in train and a response is expected to be tabled in the near future.

33. A draft response to the first part of the report has been prepared in consultation with the Norfolk Island Government. It is expected to be tabled shortly.
34. The response is in the final approval stage and is expected to be tabled shortly.
35. The Government notes the recommendations, but considers that the proposed new name would not properly identify the role and function of the Main Committee and may lead to further confusion. Accordingly, the recommendations relating to a name change are not supported.
36. The government considers that the arrangements relating to joint meetings for distinguished persons to address both Houses of Parliament, that have operated since the first such meeting in 1992, continue to remain appropriate.
37. The Government is considering its response to outstanding recommendations and a response will be tabled in due course.
38. The response is being considered in light of the government's position on the CLERP 9 Act which passed through parliament in June 2004. A response to the report will be tabled as soon as possible.
39. The response to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit is an administrative response and fell due during the election period. The response is a whole of government response, coordinated by the Department of Finance (Australian Government Information Management Office) and accordingly was held over until the incoming government was operational. The response is expected to be tabled shortly.
40. A response will be prepared following the finalization of another related report by the Council of Australian Governments national inquiry on bushfire Mitigation and Management.
41. A response is being prepared and will be distributed to departments for comment shortly.
42. The response will be deferred pending the finalization of work by the Australian Maritime Group and Australian Transport Council on this issue in 2005.
43. The response is being finalised and will be tabled in due course.
44. The report is being considered and a response will be tabled as soon as possible.