

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 14

WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 1987

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL STUDIES COUNCIL:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act 1964*, this House appoints Mr Gayler and Mr Miles to be members of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, and to continue as members until the dissolution of the 35th Parliament.

Question—put and passed.

3 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL REVENUE) AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Administrator: Message No. 6, dated 15 September 1987, from His Excellency the Administrator was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources), the Bill was read a third time.

4 **STATES (WORKS AND HOUSING) ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed by Mr Porter who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "whilst not opposing the provisions of the Bill, the House condemns the Government for the delay in the re-institution of negative gearing and for the pursuit of economic policies which have:

- (a) forced a record number of over 161,000 Australians on to public housing lists;
- (b) resulted in a long period of record high interest rates; and
- (c) resulted last year in the lowest number of housing starts for the last 20 years excepting the drought year of 1982-83".

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Blanchard, in the Chair)—

AYES, 64

Mr Baldwin	Mr Free	Mr Kerr	Mr Price
Mr Beddall	Mr Gayler	Dr Klugman	Mr Punch
Dr Blewett	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb*	Mr Saunderson
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Scholes
Mr Charles	Mr Grace	Mr Lavarch	Mr Sciacca
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lee	Mr Scott
Mr Cleeland	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Mr Snow
Mr Courtice	Mrs Harvey	Ms McHugh	Mr Snowdon
Ms Crawford	Mr Hayden	Mr McLeay	Mr Staples
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mrs Darling	Mr Hollis	Mr Milton	Mr Tickner
Mr Dawkins	Mr Howe	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Uren
Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr West
Mr Duncan	Mr Jenkins	Mr Mountford	Mr Willis
Ms Fatin	Mr Johns	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wright
Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kent	Mr O'Neil	Mr Young

NOES, 52

Mr Adermann	Mr Cowan	Mr Katter	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shack
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sharp
Mr Braithwaite	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Macphee	Mr Sinclair
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr Millar	Mr Smith
Mr Burr	Mr Hall	Mr Moore	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Halverson	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Peacock	Mr White
Mr Carlton	Dr Hewson	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Cobb	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Dr Woods
Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Administrator: Message No. 7, dated 15 September 1987, from His Excellency the Administrator was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue and moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources), the Bill was read a third time.

5 PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Paper: Mr Smith, by leave, presented the following paper:

Offshore petroleum exploration—Chart indicating fall in offshore exploration since 1983.

Debate continued.

Mr Goodluck addressing the House—

It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

6 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

7 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for September 1987.

Canberra College of Advanced Education Act—Council of the Canberra College of Advanced Education—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986.

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report No. 36—Debt recovery and insolvency.

Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act—Recommendations of the Local Government Grants Commissions of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory and Tasmania for financial assistance grants for 1987-88 and the 1986-87 additional entitlements.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Public Service Act—Department of the Special Minister of State—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Criminal Injuries Compensation Ordinance—Report for 1986-87.

Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

8 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Cobb, Mr Cross, Mr Free, Mr Gayler, Mr Katter, Mr Lee, Mr Millar, Mr Moore and Mr Sciacca—from certain citizens praying that the major recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985 be implemented without delay.

Mr Beale, Mr Kent, Mr Milton, Mr Reith and Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.

Mr Cobb, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Sharp and Mr Webster—from certain citizens; and Mr Cowan—from certain residents of the Division of Lyne praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Beale, Mr Burr, Mr Ruddock and Dr Woods—from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.

Mr Beale, Mr Free, Mr Ruddock and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the circulation of X-rated videos be prevented and laws regarding obscenity in the media be revived and enforced.

Mr Cobb, Mr Hicks, Mr Hunt and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.

Mr Andrew, Mr Downer and Dr Woods—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.

Mr Blunt and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.

Mr Cobb and Mr Sharp—from certain citizens praying that any endeavour to introduce compulsory identification cards cease.

Mr MacKellar and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken within the Australian Taxation Office and other departments to counter tax evasion and fraudulent practices.

Mr Prosser and Mr Saunderson—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.

Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that a wealth tax not be introduced.

- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the Industrial Relations Bill be rejected.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that plans to introduce time charges for local telephone calls not be implemented.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that the importation and possession of child pornography be made a criminal offence and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography in the ACT.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that funding continue for the Naranga Work Education Centre and the Nepean Education and Vocation Centre, Vic.
- Ms Fatin—from certain citizens praying that all child pornography entering or being produced in Australia be banned.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the Government support the stand taken by the New Zealand Government on nuclear vessels and that the policy of developing zones of peace and nuclear free zones in the Indian and Pacific Oceans be implemented.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain residents of the Division of Murray praying that the Health Insurance Act and the National Health Act be amended to restore the rebates which were withdrawn following changes to Medicare benefits on 1 August 1987.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to prevent the implementation of the Australia Card legislation.
- Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that the Social Security offices at Corrimal, Warrawong and Dapto, NSW, be kept open and deliver full services.
- Mr A. A. Morris—from certain citizens praying that pension adjustments related to November and May CPI increases not be deferred but paid immediately.
- Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Petitions received.

- 9 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FOREIGN DEBT AND THE CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT:** The House was informed that Mr Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The vulnerability of the Australian economy because of the sheer size of our foreign debt burden and the seemingly intractable deficit in the current account of the balance of payments".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Peacock addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 10 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Message No. 13, dated 20 October 1987, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to bankruptcy*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 11 **EXCISE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS:** Mr Willis (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) moved—
Excise Tariff Proposals Nos. 11 and 12 (1987), and
Customs Tariff Proposals No. 18 (1987).
Debate adjourned (Mr White), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 **PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act relating to the assessment and collection of the tax imposed by the *Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Act 1987*, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Kerin presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:
Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Assessment 1987.
Petroleum Resource Rent Tax 1987.
Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (Interest on Underpayments) 1987.
Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1987.
Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 **PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT TAX BILL 1987:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a tax in respect of the profits of certain petroleum projects.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 **PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT TAX (INTEREST ON UNDERPAYMENTS) BILL 1987:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to impose an interest charge in respect of underpayments of certain amounts payable under the *Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Assessment Act 1987*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 **PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT TAX (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 1987:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to make certain amendments consequent upon the enactment of the *Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Assessment Act 1987*, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 **HOUSING ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Community Services and Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Housing Assistance Act 1984*.
Bill read a first time.
Dr Blewett moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Dr Blewett, by leave, presented the following paper:
Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement—Copy of supplemental agreement.
Dr Blewett concluded his speech.
Paper: Dr Blewett presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

17 JINDALEE FACILITIES, ALICE SPRINGS—UPGRADING—APPROVAL OF WORK:

Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, and by reason of the urgent nature of the work, it is expedient that the following proposed work be carried out without having been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works: Upgrade of the Jindalee facilities at Alice Springs.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: Message No. 14, dated 21 October 1987, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senators Beahan, Coulter, Harradine, Schacht and Short had been appointed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.

19 ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE: The House was informed of the following nominations of Members to be members of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters:

Mr Lee, Mrs Jakobsen and Mr Punch had been nominated by the Government Whip, Mr Shack had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Blunt had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

20 PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Mr Holding (Minister for Employment Services and Youth Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Ruddock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 74

Mr Baldwin	Mr Duncan	Mrs Kelly	Mr O'Neil
Mr Beddall	Ms Fatin	Mr Kent	Mr Price
Mr Bilney	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kerin	Mr Punch
Mr Blanchard	Mr Free	Mr Kerr	Mr Saunderson
Dr Blewett	Mr Gayler	Dr Klugman	Mr Scholes
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb*	Mr Sciacca
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Scott
Mr Brumby	Mr Grace	Mr Lavarch	Mr Simmons
Mr Campbell	Mr Hand	Mr Lee	Mr Snow
Mr Charles	Mrs Harvey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Snowdon
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hayden	Ms McHugh	Mr Staples
Mr Cleeland	Mr Holding	Mr McLeay	Mr Tickner
Mr Courtice	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Uren
Ms Crawford	Mr Howe	Mr Mildren	Mr West
Mr Cross	Mr Humphreys	Mr Milton	Mr Willis
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Hurford	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Wright
Mrs Darling	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Young
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jenkins	Mr Mountford	
Mr Dubois	Mr Johns	Mr O'Keefe	

NOES, 53

Mr Adermann	Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr Rocher
Mr Aldred	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack
Mr Andrew*	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sharp
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr McVeigh	Mr Smith
Mr Braithwaite	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Macphee	Mr Spender
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr Hall	Mr Millar	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Halverson	Mr Moore	Mr Webster
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Wilson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Dr Hewson	Mr Peacock	Dr Woods
Mr Carlton	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Hunt	Mr Prosser	
Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	
Mr Cowan	Mr Katter	Mr Robinson	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a third time.

- 21 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Mr Rocher addressing the House—

Adjournment negated: It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Mr Rocher concluded his speech.

Debate adjourned (Mr Hollis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 22 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 October 1987:

Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 239.

Defence Act—By-laws—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 238.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Cohen, Mr Duffy, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Hawke, Mr Jones and Mr Shipton.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives