

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 17

TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 1999

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

3 PAPER

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) presented the following paper:

Psychiatrist dubbed “Dr 747”—“Wooldridge’s Dr 747 up in the air”—Copy of article published in the *Sun Herald*, 7 February 1999.

4 AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1998-99—Performance audits—

No. 22—Getting over the line—Selected Commonwealth bodies management of the Year 2000 problem.

No. 23—Accountability and oversight arrangements for statutory bodies in the former Primary Industries and Energy portfolio.

Nos. 24, 25, 26 and 27—DAS Business Unit sales: Sales management; DASFLEET sale; Works Australia sale; DAS Interiors Australia.

No. 28—Sale of SA Rail, Tasrail and Pax Rail.

No. 29—Provision of Migrant settlement services by DIMA.

No. 30—The use and operation of performance information in the service level agreements: Department of Social Security; Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs and Centrelink.

Severally ordered to be printed.

5 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Administrative Review Council—Report to the Attorney-General—No. 43—
Administrative review of patents decisions.

Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

Australian Dried Fruits Board—7th report, for 1997-98.

Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

Christmas Island Casino Surveillance Authority and Casino Controller—Report
for 1997-98.

Commissioner of Taxation—Data-matching program—Report—ATO's
interaction with the program 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Commonwealth Services Delivery Agency (Centrelink)—Data-matching
program—Report on progress 1995-98.

Defence Housing Authority—Statement of corporate intent 1998-99.

Employment National Limited—

Annual general meeting documentation 19 November 1998.

Statement of corporate intent 1998-99 – 2000-01.

Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation—Report for
1997-98.

Mid-year economic and fiscal outlook 1998-99.

Ministerial responsibility—A guide on key elements—December 1998.

Telecommunications (Interception) Act—Report for 1997-98.

6 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the
following papers:

Commissioner of Taxation—Data-matching program—Report—ATO's
interaction with the program 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Mid-year economic and fiscal outlook 1998-99.

Ministerial responsibility—A guide on key elements—December 1998.

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

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) had
proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House
for discussion, namely, “The damaging effect of the GST on Australia's
capacity to reach the now bipartisan 5 per cent unemployment target”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 15 February 1999.

9 RETAILING SECTOR—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), by leave, moved—That Mr Jenkins and Mr Fitzgibbon be members of the Joint Select Committee on the Retailing Sector.

Question—put and passed.

10 JUDICIARY AMENDMENT BILL 1998

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.

Ordered—That Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care) be granted an extension of time.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mrs B. K. Bishop, the Bill was read a third time.

11 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT BILL 1998

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.

Debate adjourned (Mrs B. K. Bishop—Minister for Aged Care), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Ordered—That order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

13 REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS BILL 1998

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 L. D. T. Ferguson who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) notes that Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are intended to secure environmental, economic, social, regional community and industry development objectives for two decades;

- (2) notes that the securing of such objectives is dependent upon the policy certainty which can only come from long term bipartisan support, and in this context regrets the failure of the Government to consult on detail during the drafting process;
- (3) notes that the Opposition has consistently given in principle support for the legislative enactment of the objectives of the National Forest Policy Statement and reaffirmed such support on introduction of the original Bill on 30 June 1998;
- (4) believes that it is inappropriate to extend the benefits of this Bill to any future RFA which purports to meet the objectives of the Bill, but which in fact does not do so, and expresses concern in this context that the Bill provides no adequate mechanism to allow for the Parliament to review the adequacy of any future RFA;
- (5) notes that the RFA process and underpinning legislation is inextricably interwoven with the full implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement and the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy, and as a consequence regrets that the Government has failed to progress the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy; and
- (6) condemns the Government for its failure to introduce complementary industry policy measures to ensure that the resource security granted to industry by these measures is complemented by Government and industry commitments to investment, exports, jobs, value adding and downstream processing of Australia's forest resources".

Debate continued.

Closure

Mr McArthur moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

AYES, 71

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lawler	Mr Schultz
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Secker
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Ms Bailey	Mr Forrest*	Mr McArthur*	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Ms Gambaro	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr McGauran	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mrs May	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cameron	Mrs Hull	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Prosser	Dr Washer
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Downer	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr St Clair	

NOES, 62

Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Andren	Mr Gibbons	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Smith
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Mossfield	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Ms O'Byrne	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Zahra
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	
Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 73

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Secker
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Somlyay
Ms Bailey	Mr Forrest*	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Dr Southcott
Mr Baird	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Mrs Stone
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mrs May	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Billson	Mr Haase	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr Cadman	Mrs Hull	Mr Prosser	Dr Washer
Mr Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr St Clair	
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr Schultz	

NOES, 62

Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Andren	Mr Gibbons	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Breton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Smith
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Mossfield	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Ms O'Byrne	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Zahra
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	
Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll	

* 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation), the Bill was read a third time.

14 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 February 1999:

Migration Act—Statements (10) under section 48B.

Public Service Act—Determinations—

1998 Nos. LES 44, LES 45.

1999 Nos. LES 1, LES 2, LES 3, LES 4, LES 5.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Crosio, Mrs Gallus, Mr Melham and Mrs Sullivan.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives