

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 38

MONDAY, 31 MAY 1999

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 MIGRATION—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mrs Gallus (Chair) presented the following papers:

Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Review of Migration Regulation 4.31B—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, May 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mrs Gallus, Dr Theophanous, Mr Baird and Mr Ripoll made statements in connection with the report.

Mrs Gallus moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mrs Gallus was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 MURRAY RIVER BRIDGE CROSSINGS

Mr Forrest, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the significance of Murray River bridge crossings to the national economy;
- (2) recognises the deteriorated condition of many existing bridge crossings and their urgent need of major capital for upgrading to meet modern safety and traffic load standards;
- (3) commends the federal Government for its funding commitment of \$44 million for upgrading of bridge crossings at Corowa, Echuca and

Robinvale and a further \$203 million for a new bridge and approaches on the Hume Highway at Albury and Wodonga;

- (4) acknowledges the Murray River Crossings Transport Economic Study which clearly establishes the regional and national economic significance of all Murray River crossings and establishes a priority for the upgrading of bridges for the first time; and
- (5) calls on the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to provide like funding for reconstruction of bridges requiring urgent replacement.

Debate ensued.

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

4 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

7 MOBILE PHONES—INTERFERENCE WITH HEARING AIDS

Mr McLeay, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House deplores the complete disregard of mobile phone carriers for the rights and health of 500 000 hearing-impaired people shown by the failure of the carriers, particularly Telstra, to address the problem of GSM interference with hearing aids.

Debate ensued.

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

8 OLDER PERSONS

Mr Mossfield, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that 1999 is the International Year of the Older Persons;
- (2) notes the large number of middle-aged persons who have been retrenched in Australia and who have little chance of obtaining further employment;
- (3) recognises that aged care services should provide a continuity of care in which services come to the people;
- (4) further recognises that many older persons who have been retrenched will have used up their superannuation entitlements by retiring age and will need to fall back on the aged pension; and
- (5) agrees that more work needs to be done to preserve Australian jobs, so that people are free to make their own retirement decisions based on quality of life issues rather than be forced to retire due to a management decision of their employer.

Debate ensued.

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

9 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

10 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

14 May 1999—Message No. 63—

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) (No. 2) 1998-99.

Appropriation (No. 3) 1998-99.

Appropriation (No. 4) 1998-99.

Customs (Anti-dumping Amendments) 1999.

Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Amendment (No. 1) 1999.

National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Amendment 1999.

National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Amendment 1999.

Primary Industries (Customs) Charges 1999.

Primary Industries (Excise) Levies 1999.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges (Consequential Amendments) 1999.

Sales Tax Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1999.

20 May 1999—Message No. 64—Migration Legislation Amendment (Temporary Safe Haven Visas) 1999.

11 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

26 May 1999—Message No. 92—Telecommunications Laws Amendment (Universal Service Cap) 1999.

27 May 1999—Message No. 96—Income Tax Rates Amendment (RSAs Provided by Registered Organizations) 1999 (*without requests*).

12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (BRIBERY OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS) BILL 1999

Message No. 89, 13 May 1999, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT (ONLINE SERVICES) BILL 1999

Message No. 91, 26 May 1999, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM (AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL (NO. 1) 1999

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

27 May 1999—Message No. 94—Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) (No. 1) 1999.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FINANCIAL SECTOR (TRANSFERS OF BUSINESS) BILL 1999

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

27 May 1999—Message No. 95—Financial Sector (Transfers of Business) 1999.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—REPUBLIC REFERENDUM—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Message No. 90, 26 May 1999, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to a resolution concerning the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on the Republic Referendum and requesting the concurrence of the House.

Ordered—That the message be considered forthwith.

Mr Williams (Attorney-General) moved—That the House concurs in the resolution transmitted to the House in message No. 90 of the Senate.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—WOOL INTERNATIONAL PRIVATISATION BILL 1999

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

27 May 1999—Message No. 93—Wool International Privatisation 1999.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

18 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 1999

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 Tanner 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 notes that:

- (1) the government has not achieved real tax reform in Australia, it has merely agreed to introduce an unfair GST;
- (2) the new Howard/Lees GST will involve a massive tax mix switch which will hurt ordinary families, which is directly contrary to the balloted policy of the Australian Democrats;
- (3) that the Howard/Lees deal will actually increase the tax on food in Australia;
- (4) that ordinary people will now face a GST on top of State indirect taxes on bank accounts; and
- (5) that the amended tax package is still unfair and will also damage the environment”.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Slipper—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

19 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1999

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 Tanner 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 notes that:

- (1) the government has not achieved real tax reform in Australia, it has merely agreed to introduce an unfair GST;
- (2) the new Howard/Lees GST will involve a massive tax mix switch which will hurt ordinary families, which is directly contrary to the balloted policy of the Australian Democrats;
- (3) that the Howard/Lees deal will actually increase the tax on food in Australia;
- (4) that ordinary people will now face a GST on top of State indirect taxes on bank accounts; and
- (5) that the amended tax package is still unfair and will also damage the environment”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

20 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1999-2000—BUDGET DEBATE

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 Tanner, by leave, presented the following paper:

Budget 1999-2000—Opening statement by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care to Senate Estimates Committee.

Debate adjourned (Mr Entsch—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

21 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 May 1999:

Aged Care Act—Principles under section 96-1—1999—User Rights Amendment (No. 1).

Aged or Disabled Persons Care Act—Guidelines 1999 No. 9BG 1.

Air Services Act—Instrument No. M37/99.

Airports Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 77.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals 1999—Nos. 4, 5, 6.

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—Amendment Nos. 23, 26, 28.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Meat and Live-stock Export Orders 1999 Nos. 1, 2.

Australian National Maritime Museum Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 72.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—
Civil Aviation Orders—

Instruments—1999 Nos. CASA 158, CASA 222, CASA 223, CASA 225, CASA 226, CASA 227, CASA 228, CASA 229, CASA 230.

Part 20—Amendments 1999 25 May.

Part 92—Amendments 1999 6 May.

Part 95—Amendments 1999 30 April.

Part 105—Amendments 1999 20 (6), 21 (2), 23, 30 April, 4 (2), 5 (8), 6, 7 (25) May.

Part 106—Amendments 1999 4, 7 May.

Part 107—Amendments 1999 16, 21 April.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 75.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Regulations—

Notice made under regulation 49—10 May 1999 (in substitution for paper presented on 11 May 1999).

Determinations under section 58B—1999 Nos. 12, 13, 14.

Endangered Species Protection Act—Declarations under section 18—
30 April 1999.

11 May 1999.

Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Regulations—
Statutory Rules 1999 No. 74.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations 1999 No. T9.

Income Tax Assessment Act 1936—

Determinations—RHQ company 1999 No. 2.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 79, 80.

Income Tax Assessment Act 1997—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 78.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Statement under section 40.

Statement under section 125.

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 76.

National Health Act—Determinations 1999 No. IHS 5.

Navigation Act—Marine Orders 1999 No. 12.

Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act—Codes of Practice Approved (2).

Ozone Protection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 73.

Public Service Act—

Determinations 1999—

No. 2.

Nos. FAT 5, FAT 6, FAT 7, LES 11, LES 12, LES 13, LES 14, LES 15, SESROB 29, SESROB 30, SESROB 31.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—Notices 1999 No. 4.

Sales Tax Assessment Act—Determinations 1999 No. STD 3.

Superannuation Contributions Tax (Assessment and Collection) Act—Determinations 1999 No. SCD 1.

Superannuation Contributions Tax Imposition Act—Determinations 1999 No. SCD 4.

Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act—Determinations 1999 No. SGD 1.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations 1999 No. 8.

Taxation Administration Act—
Determinations 1999 No. TD 27.

Rulings 1999—

Nos. PR 25, PR 26, PR 27, PR 28, PR 29, PR 30, PR 31, PR 32, PR 33, PR 34, PR 35, PR 36, PR 37, PR 38, PR 39, PR 40, PR 41, TR 5.

Telecommunications Act 1997—Determinations—1999—

Telecommunications (Due Date for Annual Charge).

Telecommunications (Late Payment of Annual Charge).

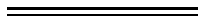
Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act—Determinations—1999—

Telecommunications (Amount of Annual Charge).

Telecommunications (Exemption from Annual Charge).

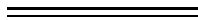
Termination Payments Tax (Assessment and Collection) Act—Determinations 1999 No. SCD 3.

Termination Payments Tax Imposition Act—Determinations 1999 No. SCD 2.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Bailey, Ms Gillard, Ms Hoare, Mr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nehl, Dr Southcott, Mr A. P. Thomson, Mr K. J. Thomson and Dr Washer.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives