

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 46

MONDAY, 21 JUNE 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 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Dr Theophanous presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Military justice procedures in the Australian Defence Force—

Report, June 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Dr Theophanous, Mr Hawker and Mr Price made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Dr Theophanous moved—That the House take note of the report.

Dr Theophanous was granted leave to continue his 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 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following papers:

Environment and Heritage—Standing Committee—Review of the Department of the Environment's annual report for 1997-98—

Report, 9 June 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Causley, Mrs Irwin and Mr Billson made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Causley moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Causley was granted leave to continue his 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.

4 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (DEFENCE PURPOSES LEAVE) BILL 1999

Mr Bevis, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* to ensure that leave for participation in activities as a member of the Australian Defence Force Reserves be one of the matters which can be taken to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission for conciliation or arbitration.

Mr Bevis made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

5 FOOD LABELLING

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

- (1) notes the importance of food labelling in providing consumers with accurate nutritional information;
- (2) recognises that food labelling regulations must contain enough information so that consumers can be confident a product is good value for money, meets their health and nutritional standards and falls within their cultural and religious requirements;
- (3) recognises that nutritional and dietary related illnesses are matters of public health;
- (4) expresses concern at the Howard Government's deregulation of food labelling controls;
- (5) condemns the Howard Government's failure to acknowledge and respond to the level of community anxiety over food labelling deregulation; and
- (6) calls upon the Howard Government to reverse its decision on food labelling deregulation, work towards greater protection and information for consumers and maintain the health department's role in regulating nutritional and dietary matters.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Goods and services tax on imported books and magazines—Copy of letter from Mr Costello to Mr Wallace Kirsop, 25 May 1999.

Questions without notice continuing—

Suspension of standing and sessional orders moved

Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Treasurer moving forthwith a substantive motion with regard to his allegation that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition misled the House with regard to the application of GST on the importation of books through the internet.

Closure of Member

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 76

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

NOES, 65

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) (seconder) addressing the House—

Closure of Member

Mr Reith moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 76

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz
Mr Anderson	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Secker
Mr Anthony	Mr Forrest*	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Slipper
Ms Bailey	Mrs Gallus	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Ms Gambaro	Mrs May	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Haase	Mr Nairn	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Howard	Mr Nugent	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mrs Hull	Mr Prosser	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Williams
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	Dr Wooldridge
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Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beazley	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Sciacca
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sidebottom
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr Martin	Mr Smith
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Snowdon
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Swan
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Tanner
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Dr Theophanous
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilkie
Dr Emerson	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilton
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Ms Plibersek	Mr Zahra
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Quick	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Ripoll	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Ms Roxon	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion for the suspension of standing and sessional orders be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 65

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Rudd
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beazley	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Sciacca
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sidebottom
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr Martin	Mr Smith
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Snowdon
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Swan
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Tanner
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Dr Theophanous
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilkie
Dr Emerson	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilton
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Ms Plibersek	Mr Zahra
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Quick	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Ripoll	
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Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz
Mr Anderson	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
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Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Williams
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	Dr Wooldridge
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair	Ms Worth

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice concluded.

8 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

9 MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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

- (1) acknowledges the necessity of preserving the sustainability of the Australian fishing stocks;
- (2) recognises the economic potential of quality seafood exports;
- (3) commends the industry for its work on by-catch reduction devices (BRDs) and turtle exclusion devices (TEDs) and the protection of nursery grounds;
- (4) acknowledges the value of the vessel monitoring system (VMS) as a cost-efficient method of vessel location and crew safety and especially of regulating closures by strategic area locations rather than by time; and
- (5) calls for sanity and equity in balancing the protection of the marine environment and the legitimate expectations of fishermen, their families and those communities reliant on them.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 WHEAT FREIGHT SUBSIDY

Ms O'Byrne, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) draws to the attention of the Government the vital role that the Wheat Freight Subsidy plays in Tasmania in underpinning up to 1600 jobs in the baking, chicken, stockfeed and pork sectors; and
- (2) calls for the Government to extend the Wheat Freight Subsidy Scheme for a further three years on a calendar year basis to provide essential industry security.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 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.

12 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:

9 June 1999—Message No. 70—Income Tax Rates Amendment (RSAs Provided by Registered Organizations) 1999.

11 June 1999—Message No. 71—Telecommunications Laws Amendment (Universal Service Cap) 1999.

17 June 1999—Message—

No. 72—Criminal Code Amendment (Bribery of Foreign Public Officials) 1999.

No. 73—

Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) (No. 1) 1999.

Financial Sector (Transfers of Business) 1999.

13 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that 21 June 1999, at 8 p.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

14 INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES—STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Minister for Employment Services), by leave, moved—That Mr Baird be discharged from attendance on the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources and that, in his place, Mr Brough be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

15 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—REFURBISHMENT OF 4 TREASURY PLACE, MELBOURNE

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Refurbishment of 4 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

17 COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 97, 21 June 1999, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of the appointment of Senators Abetz, Bolkus, Boswell, Payne, Schacht and Stott Despoja to the Joint Select Committee on the Republic Referendum.

19 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 6 and 7, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

20 BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT (ONLINE SERVICES) BILL 1999

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Entsch presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Mr M. J. Evans moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:

- (1) expresses its concern that:
 - (a) the legislation is being dealt with in indecent haste and with inadequate consideration;
 - (b) the Government’s claim that the legislation will ‘solve the problem’ of unacceptable content is not supported by the reality that the vast bulk of internet content is generated outside Australia;
 - (c) the proposals, including the idea of mandatory internet service provider filters, are unworkable and easily by-passed;
 - (d) the application of the narrowcasting classification regime to the regulation of internet content has not been thoroughly analysed and may well require revisiting in the future, in view of rapidly changing and converging technology; and
 - (e) the legislation does not include a sunset clause, or provision for review, given the speed of technological change in this area; and
- (2) recommends that:
 - (a) efforts should be made by the Government to pursue international agreements on the regulation of internet content; and
 - (b) substantially more emphasis should be placed on end-user empowerment through information and education campaigns for parents, schools and guardians about the use of the internet and of end-user filter devices”.

Mr Billson addressing the House—

21 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 June 1999:

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 116.

Airports Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 113.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals 1999 No. 7.

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—Amendment No. 21: Approval.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 97.

Child Support (Assessment) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 103.

Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 104.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Part 105—Amendments 1999 11(6), 19, 21(3), 24(2), 25(8), 31(3) May, 1, 3(4), 4(7) June.

Part 106—Amendments 1999 31 May.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 105.

Commonwealth Vehicles (Registration and Exemption from Taxation) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 106.

Customs Act—Manufacturing in Bond (MiB)—Approval of application, 9 June 1999.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1999 Nos. 6, 7, 8.

Determinations under section 58B 1999 Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 117.

Financial Management and Accountability Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 107, 108.

Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 98.

Fishing Levy Act and Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 96.

Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 102.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 109.

Income Tax Assessment Act 1936—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 114.

Migration Act—General Direction 1999 Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

Military Superannuation and Benefits Act—Instrument 1999—Military Superannuation and Benefits Trust Deed (Amendment) No. 1.

National Measurement Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 110.

Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 101.

Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 99.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 111, 112.

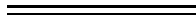
Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 115.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations 1999 Nos TD 29, TD 30, TD 31, TD 32, TD 33, TD 34, TD 35, TR 6.

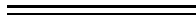
Rulings 1999 Nos. PR 50, PR 51, PR 52, PR 53, PR 54, PR 55, PR 56, PR 57, PR 58, PR 59, PR 60, PR 61, PR 62, PR 63, PR 64, PR 65, PR 66, PR 67, PR 68, PR 69, PR 70, PR 71.

Wheat Marketing Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 100.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Downer, Mr Katter, Jackie Kelly and Dr Lawrence.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 46

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 21 JUNE 1999

1 The Main Committee met at 8 p.m.

2 **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.

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

Consideration in detail

Schedule—

Ordered—That the proposed expenditure for the purposes and services in the Schedule be considered in the following order, either separately or together, as shown:

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	}	
Department of the Environment and Heritage		
Department of Transport and Regional Services		
Attorney-General's Department		
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business		
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs		
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts		
Department of Defence	}	together
Department of Veterans' Affairs		
Department of Industry, Science and Resources		
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet		
Department of the Treasury	}	together
Department of Finance and Administration		

Department of Family and Community Services

Department of Health and Aged Care

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, \$394 718 000—

Department of the Environment and Heritage, \$593 270 000—

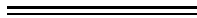
together debated—

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

3 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the Main Committee adjourned at 10.13 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 4.30 p.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



B. C. WRIGHT

Clerk of the Main Committee