

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 67

WEDNESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 1999



1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **EAST TIMOR—UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL—RESOLUTION 1264, 15 SEPTEMBER 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

East Timor—United Nations Security Council—Resolution 1264, 15 September 1999.

Debate adjourned (Mr Horne), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

3 **MATTER REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:

(1) the following order of the day, government business, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

East Timor—United Nations Security Council—Resolution 1264, 15 September 1999; and

(2) so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Members speaking on the motion being limited to 10 minutes each.

Question—put and passed.

4 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

Mr Reith (Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Reith moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Reith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

5 BORDER PROTECTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide enhanced protection for Australia's borders, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Ruddock moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Ruddock presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

6 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY LEVIES REGULATIONS (VALIDATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF AMENDMENTS) BILL 1999

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the validation and commencement of certain regulations changing the rate of National Residue Survey Levy imposed on certain sheep and lamb transactions, and for related matters.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Truss moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

7 FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Family Law Act 1975* and other Acts, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Williams moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

8 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSAL

Mr Williams (Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs) moved Customs Tariff Proposal No. 5 (1999).

Paper

Mr Williams presented the following paper:

Summary of alterations—Customs Tariff Proposal No. 5 (1999).

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

9 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 8) 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 K. J. Thomson 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 this House:

- (1) condemns the Government for its continuing unwillingness to legislate against tax minimisation through the use of family trusts and notes the conflict of interest involved in approximately 17 Government frontbenchers holding family trusts;
- (2) calls on the Government to introduce into the House without delay the anti avoidance entity taxation arrangements announced in the ANTS package;
- (3) notes with alarm the consequent failure of the Government’s response to the business tax revenue–neutral criterion and the effect of the resulting fiscal loosening on the current account deficit; and
- (4) notes that Jeff Kennett has received a strong rebuke from the voters of Victoria due to his championing of the GST, excessive secrecy and nobbling of the Auditor General”.

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.

Mr K. J. Thomson, by leave, moved Opposition amendments 1 to 5 together.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 60

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

NOES, 74

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

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard	Mr Beazley
Mr Prosser	Ms Burke
Mr Brough	Mr Wilkie
Mr Hardgrave	Mr G. J. Evans

And so it was negatived.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, Government amendments 1 to 24 were made, together, after debate.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Slipper, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

10 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING 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 by Mr M. J. Evans 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 the quality of Australian education institutions is of prime importance to our future, both economically and culturally; and
- (2) condemns the Government for damaging the quality of Australian education by:
 - (a) punitive cuts to universities;
 - (b) a lack of commitment to equity issues; and
 - (c) mismanagement of the education export industry”.

Debate continued.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

12 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1999-2000—

No. 10—Financial Statement Audit—Control structures as part of the audits of financial statements of major Commonwealth agencies for the period ended 30 June 1999—Summary of results.

No. 11—Performance Audit—Financial aspects of the conversion to digital broadcasting: Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Special Broadcasting Service Corporation.

Severally ordered to be printed.

13 PAPERS

Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency Limited—Report for 1997-98.

Airservices Australia—Corporate plan—July 1998–June 2003.

Australia's readiness for the Year 2000—Ministerial statement—Senator Alston, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, 22 September 1999.

Long Term Strategies—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Australia's Population 'Carrying capacity': One Nation—Two Ecologies—Government response, 1999.

National Health and Medical Research Council—Grants 1999—Corrigenda.

14 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Airservices Australia—Corporate plan—July 1998–June 2003.

Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency—Report for 1997-98.

National Health and Medical Research Council—Grants, 1999—Corrigenda.

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

15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—BUSINESS TAX PACKAGE

The House was informed that Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the government to meet its commitment to produce a business tax package that is revenue neutral".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Crean addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

16 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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, 27 September 1999.

Mr Nehl, Mr Sercombe and Mr Ronaldson, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

17 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mrs Moylan (Chair) presented the following papers:

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Reports—

RAAF Base Townsville Redevelopment Stage 1 (6th report of 1999).

Darwin Naval Base Redevelopment (7th report of 1999).

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mrs Moylan and Mr Lindsay, by leave, made statements in connection with the reports.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1999

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

20 September 1999—Message No. 194—Superannuation Legislation Amendment (No. 3) 1999.

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

19 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999

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

20 September 1999—Message No. 193—Human Rights Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1999.

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

20 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr M. J. Evans (see item No. 10, page 869)*—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Tuckey—Minister for Forestry and Conservation), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

21 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with requests for amendments and informing the House that the amendments indicated by schedule B annexed had been made by the Senate:

22 September 1999—Message No. 195—Further 1998 Budget Measures Legislation Amendment (Social Security) 1999.

Ordered—That the amendments requested by the Senate be considered at the next sitting.

22 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr M. J. Evans (see item No. 10, page 869)*—

Debate resumed—

23 ADJOURNMENT

It being 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 September 1999:

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Orders—1999—Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Lamb Export to the United States of America)—

No. 2.

No. 2—Amendments Nos. 1 and 2.

Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act—Guidelines for the classification of publications, 1999.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Notice under section 45—Formation of the company Partnership Australia Domestic Limited.

Fisheries Management Act—Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995—1999 SBT Final TAC Determination.

Health Insurance Act—1999—

Declaration No. QAA 2.

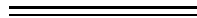
Determinations Nos. HS/2, HS/3, HS/4.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Instrument of approval under Section 23AA, 17 September 1999.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brough, Ms Burke*, Mr G. J. Evans, Mr Gibbons, Mr Hardgrave, Mr Lee, Mr Prosser*, Mr Snowdon and Mr Wilkie.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 67

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 1999

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

**3 EAST TIMOR—UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL—RESOLUTION 1264,
15 SEPTEMBER 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Reith (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 21 September*), viz.:

East Timor—United Nations Security Council—Resolution 1264, 15 September 1999—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of sitting

At 12.58 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 1.10 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

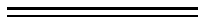
Debate continued.

Mr Nugent addressing the Main Committee—

4 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Lloyd, the Main Committee adjourned at 1.31 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

**B. C. WRIGHT**

Clerk of the Main Committee