

2002-03-04

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 154

THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2004

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- 1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) BILL 2003 [NO. 2]**
Mr Williams (Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telstra Corporation Act 1991*, and for other 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 Swan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 3 **VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (ELECTRONIC DELIVERY) BILL 2004**
Mrs D. S. Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* to facilitate electronic communications under that Act, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mrs D. S. Vale moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper
Mrs D. S. Vale presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Swan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 4 **NORFOLK ISLAND AMENDMENT BILL 2003**
The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mrs D. M. Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper
Mrs D. M. Kelly presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mrs D. M. Kelly, the Bill was read a third time.
- 5 **NEW INTERNATIONAL TAX ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2003**
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 Cox 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 international taxation measures contained in the 2003-2004 budget had an aggregate four year cost of \$270 million;
 - (a) the direct cost of measures, including those contained in this bill now total \$465.5 million; and
 - (b) that two more tranches of amendments are scheduled to follow; and
- (2) requires that the government provide a full reconciliation of the international taxation changes included in the 2003-2004 budget measure with measures in the previous international tax bill, this international tax bill and future international tax bills prior to the bill being passed by the Senate”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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 Cameron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

6 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (2004 MEASURES NO. 1) BILL 2004

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 Cox 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 the amendments dealing with distributions to certain entities will act as safeguards against certain abuses of trusts by individuals, the effect of these measures falls short of the Treasurer’s commitment to ensure that the outcome of the Review of Business Taxation was revenue neutral”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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 Cameron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

7 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2003-2004—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

8 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2003-2004—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

9 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2003-2004—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

10 HEALTH AND AGEING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Ms Worth presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

Ms Gillard 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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) planning to cover up bulk billing figures by electorate until after the next election;
- (2) causing a bulk billing crisis;
- (3) trying to divert attention from its plans to destroy Medicare by introducing so-called ‘safety net’ arrangements which will make 98% of Australians worse off and which will waste \$72 million of precious health dollars on administration; and
- (4) consistently ignoring the advice of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee thus depriving many sick Australians of affordable access to cost-effective medications while agreeing to a Free Trade Agreement with the USA which:
 - (a) has the potential to undermine the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme over time through the establishment of an on going Australia/USA Medicines Working Group;
 - (b) has ensured US Pharmaceutical companies can challenge the decisions of the expert committees that advise government on PBS listing and price;
 - (c) may force changes to the current Australian blood plasma fractionation arrangements with consequences for the safety of blood products; and
 - (d) may result in job losses in Australian firms which manufacture generic medicines as a result of changes to patents and intellectual property protection”.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock—Attorney-General), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS) BILL 2003

Message No. 419, 4 March 2004, from the Senate was reported returning the Criminal Code Amendment (Terrorist Organisations) Bill 2003 with amendments.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock (Attorney-General), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

12 PRIVACY AMENDMENT BILL 2003—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to with an amendment (*see item No. 6, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the amendment.

Amendment made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock (Attorney-General), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

13 HEALTH AND AGEING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

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 Ms Gillard (see item No. 10, page 1483)*—

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.

14 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Papers

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) presented the following papers:

Inquiry into intelligence agencies—

Copy of letter from Mr Howard, Prime Minister, to Mr Philip Flood AO, 4 March 2004.

Press release from the Prime Minister, 4 March 2004.

Questions without notice continued.

Paper

Mr K. J. Thomson, by leave, presented the following paper:

Point Nepean Community Group Trust—Copy of letter from Point Nepean Community Group Trust members, to Fran Bailey, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, 2 March 2004.

Questions without notice continuing—

Papers

Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Trade) presented the following papers:

Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (Draft)—

Volume 1, Chapters 1-23.

Volume 2, Annex 2-B Tariff Elimination; Annex 4-A Textile Rules of Origin; Annex 5-A Rules of Origin.

Questions without notice continued.

15 PAPER

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:

Response to allegations of Senator Cherry in relation to the Hon Warren Truss, MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Statement by Mr Truss, 4 March 2004.

16 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Crime Commission—Report for 2002-03.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report of the Chief Executive Officer for period 1 July to 30 September 2003.

Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004—Correction to the explanatory memorandum.

17 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—BULK BILLING

The House was informed that Ms Gillard had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s failure in this parliamentary week to address the bulk billing crisis”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Gillard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

18 HEALTH AND AGEING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

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 Ms Gillard (see item No. 10, page 1483)*—

Debate resumed.

Mr Baldwin addressing the House—

19 ADJOURNMENT

It being 4.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 5 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.



PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 4 March 2004:

Airports Act—Statement of reasons, 29 February 2004.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—

Amendment Order—2004 No. 1.

Exemptions—2004 Nos CASA EX10, CASA EX11, CASA EX12, CASA EX13.

Instruments—2004 Nos CASA 55, CASA 60, CASA 77, CASA 86, CASA EX08.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Ms Ellis, Mrs Elson, Mrs Hull, Jackie Kelly and Mr P. E. King.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

2002-03-04

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 154

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2004

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2003-2004

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 McMullan, viz.*—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 condemns the Government for its budget waste and mismanagement, and wrong priorities which have resulted in:

- (1) a costly Medicare ‘safety net’ which does not protect families from increasing health costs and declining levels of bulk billing;
- (2) inadequate funding and higher fees for students seeking access to higher education;
- (3) a growing number of families who are financially squeezed and trying to balance work and family; and
- (4) 500,000 Australians waiting up to five years to get their teeth fixed”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

4 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2003-2004

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—

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

5 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2003-2004

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—

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

6 PRIVACY AMENDMENT BILL 2003

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

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Paper

Mr Pyne (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Family and Community Services) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

On the motion of Mr Pyne, the Government amendment was made.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the Bill be reported to the House with an amendment.

7 CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE MODERNISATION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2003

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 C.P. Thompson was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

8 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Neville moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

At 1.01 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until Wednesday, 10 March 2004 at 9.40 a.m.

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B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee