

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 168

MONDAY, 21 MAY 2007

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- 1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**
Mr Neville presented the following document:
Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the United Kingdom and Poland (25 June to 8 July 2006)—
Report, March 2007.
Mr Neville and Mr M. J. Ferguson made statements in connection with the report.
- 3 **ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**
Mr Baird (Chair) presented the following documents:
Economics, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 2006 (First Report)—
Report, March 2007.
Minutes of proceedings.
Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.
Statements in connection with the report were made.
- 4 **TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT (HORTICULTURAL CODE OF CONDUCT) BILL 2007**
Mr Katter, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.
Mr Katter 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 41.
- 5 **EXPORTS**
Mr Crean, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:
(1) notes that:
(a) strong and sustained export growth is essential for long-term economic prosperity and for providing more rewarding, well-paid jobs;
(b) despite the resources boom, Australia has been seriously and consistently underperforming in relation to its export sector;
(c) Australia's average annual export growth rate over the past ten years is half that recorded under Labor;
(d) Australia has now experienced 60 consecutive monthly trade deficits—the longest period of trade deficit on record;
(e) the Government has failed to double the number of exporters by 2006, as it said it would; and

- (f) at the same time, the Government has halved the level of financial assistance to Australian exporters; and
- (2) calls on the Government to urgently adopt a comprehensive trade strategy to address the underperformance of Australia's exports.

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.

6 GREEN ROOFS

Mr Hardgrave, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) acknowledges that for the first time, Green Roofs for Healthy Australian Cities has been discussed at a conference held in Brisbane;
- (2) notes that there are 15 green roof infrastructure associations representing urban planners, educators, horticulturalists, engineers and architects, which have now formed the World Green Roof Infrastructure Network;
- (3) notes that green roofs provide a range of benefits to help counter climate change through thermal insulation, storm-water management that causes lower run-off at peak times, reduction of ambient temperatures in cities, air and water cleaning effects, direct energy savings for government, visual beauty, habitat creation, long roof life and noise insulation;
- (4) notes that green roof spaces allow food to be grown through hydroponic, aquaculture, aquaponics, vermiculture and insect culture, providing additional revenues for building owners and tenants; and
- (5) encourages businesses and local authorities to seek the triple bottom line from environmental practices, as exemplified by the Ford Rouge Center in Dearborn, Michigan, USA.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 43, Mr Jenkins was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Document

Ms J. Bishop (Minister for Education, Science and Training) presented the following document:

Education funding for universities—Capital development pool 2008 and 2009 allocations by State—Media release by Ms J. Bishop.

Questions without notice continued.

9 MEMBER DIRECTED TO LEAVE THE CHAMBER

At 3.17 p.m. the Member for Ballarat (Ms King) was directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and she accordingly left the Chamber.

10 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

11 MICROCREDIT

Mr Quick, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) microcredit is a proven means of eradicating poverty and that research by the World Bank in 1998 found that 40 per cent of loan borrowers had moved out of poverty after four years;

- (b) at the Microcredit Summit in Halifax, Canada in 2006, Australia endorsed the goal of having 175 million families receiving microcredit by 2015;
 - (c) if the Microcredit Summit goal were achieved, then about half the first goal of the Millennium Development Goals, which is to halve the number of people who live on less than a dollar a day, would be met;
 - (d) Australia spent \$14.5 million on microcredit in its overseas aid program in the 2005-2006 financial year, which was less than one per cent of the overseas aid budget; and
 - (e) the USA, which has funded microcredit longer than most countries, has established a current benchmark level of 1.25 per cent of the aid budget for microcredit spending; and
- (2) urges the Australian Government to follow through with its endorsement of the 2006 Microcredit Summit Goal with an increase in funding of microcredit to \$40 million per year, or a level of 1.25 per cent of the aid budget, starting with the forthcoming Budget.

Debate ensued.

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

12 SURF LIFESAVERS

Mr Ciobo, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) acknowledges that 2007 has been chosen by the Australian Government as the Year of the Surf Lifesaver to mark the 100th anniversary of Surf Life Saving in Australia;
- (2) notes the fundamental role surf lifesavers play in keeping Australia's beaches safe and the 500,000 lives that have been saved on Australian beaches by our surf lifesavers over the past 100 years;
- (3) commends the volunteering efforts of surf lifesavers who dedicate their time to help others and save lives;
- (4) pays tribute to the surf lifesaving movement, which is the largest volunteer organisation of its kind in the country, consisting of 113,000 members, including 34,000 who actively patrol Australia's beaches; and
- (5) acknowledges the integral role of the Australian Government within Surf Life Saving Australia to provide a safe beach and aquatic environment.

Debate ensued.

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

13 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 44, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

14 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:

11 May 2007—Message No. 287—Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments and Other 2007 Budget Measures) 2007.

15 May 2007—Message No. 288—Superannuation Laws Amendment (2007 Budget Co-contribution Measure) 2007.

15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2007-2008—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 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 is of the view that:

- (1) despite record high commodity prices from surging demand from India and China and rising levels of taxation, the Government has failed to secure Australia's long term economic fundamentals and should be condemned for its failure to:
 - (a) address Australia's flagging productivity growth;
 - (b) stem the widening current account deficit and trade deficits;
 - (c) attend to the long term relative decline in education and training investment undercutting workplace productivity;
 - (d) provide national leadership on infrastructure including a high speed national broadband network for the whole country;
 - (e) expand and encourage research and development to move Australian industry and exports up the value-chain; and
 - (f) reform our health system to equip it for a future focused on prevention, early intervention and an ageing population;
- (2) the Government's failure to address the damaging consequences of climate change is endangering Australia's future economic prosperity;
- (3) the Government's extreme industrial relations laws will lower wages and conditions for many workers and do nothing to enhance productivity, participation or economic growth; and
- (4) the Government's Budget documents fail the test of transparency and accountability".

Debate continued.

Mr Cadman addressing the House—

16 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.29 p.m., adjourned until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 21 May 2007:

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act—Determination—2007 Child care benefit (Eligibility of child care services for approval and continued approval) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L01374].

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Act—

Determination under section 57—2007 Confidentiality No. 6, 15 May [F2007L01432].

Instrument fixing charges to be paid to APRA—2007 No. 1 [F2007L01386].

Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 118 [F2007L01286].

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 115 [F2007L01083].

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 119 [F2007L01269].

Charter of the United Nations Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 114 [F2007L01330].

Civil Aviation Act—

Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—

Part 39-105—2007—

12 (3) April [F2007L01372], [F2007L01379], [F2007L01381].

24 (14) April [F2007L01346], [F2007L01347], [F2007L01348], [F2007L01349], [F2007L01350], [F2007L01351], [F2007L01352], [F2007L01353], [F2007L01354], [F2007L01362], [F2007L01367], [F2007L01369], [F2007L01370], [F2007L01371].

26 (13) April [F2007L01355], [F2007L01357], [F2007L01358], [F2007L01359], [F2007L01361], [F2007L01378], [F2007L01388], [F2007L01393], [F2007L01394], [F2007L01398], [F2007L01399], [F2007L01400], [F2007L01401].

27 (2) April [F2007L01356], [F2007L01364].

15 May [F2007L01430].

16 (2) May [F2007L01446], [F2007L01447].

Part 39-106—2007—

24 (4) April [F2007L01365], [F2007L01377], [F2007L01380], [F2007L01389].

26 (5) April [F2007L01366], [F2007L01368], [F2007L01373], [F2007L01390], [F2007L01391].

8 (3) May [F2007L01338], [F2007L01339], [F2007L01340].

Part 39-107—2007—

24 (2) April [F2007L01382], [F2007L01383].

27 (2) April [F2007L01360], [F2007L01392].

Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 116 [F2007L01337].

Customs Act—

Orders—Tariff Concession—2007—

30 (4) April [F2007L01297], [F2007L01298], [F2007L01299], [F2007L01300].

4 (2) May [F2007L01423], [F2007L01424].

9 (2) May [F2007L01413], [F2007L01426].

11 (7) May [F2007L01412], [F2007L01436], [F2007L01440], [F2007L01441], [F2007L01443], [F2007L01444], [F2007L01445].

Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 110 [F2007L01321].

Electronic Transactions Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 111 [F2007L01336].

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—

Instruments under—

subsection 269A(7)—

16 April 2007 [F2007L01332].

26 April 2007 [F2007L01331].

subsection 303DC(1)—7, 9 May 2007 [F2007L01329], [F2007L01344].

paragraph 303EC(1)(a)—26 April 2007 [F2007L01319].

Notice under section 33—Accreditation of an amendment to a plan for a declaration—Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2007 (No. 1), 10 May 2007.

Financial Management and Accountability Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 112 [F2007L01314].

Fisheries Management Act—

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005—Amendment—2007 No. 1 [F2007L01335].

Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995—Determination—2007 No. 109 [F2007L01316].

Inspector of Transport Security Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 117 [F2007L01334].

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements under—

sub-section 40(3)—May 2007.

section 125(5)—May 2007.

Migration Act—Determinations under section 85—2007—

Visa capping for 2006/2007 financial year: Aged parent (Residence) (Class BP) visas [F2007L01324].

Visa capping for 2006/2007 financial year: Parent (Migrant) (Class AX) visas [F2007L01323].

Payment Systems (Regulation) Act—

Access regime—2007 EFTPOS system [F2007L01289].

Standard—2007 VISA debit system [F2007L01288].

Public Works Committee Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 113 [F2007L01315].

Radiocommunications Act—Determination—2007 Radiocommunications (Prohibited devices) (AFP testing of mobile telephone jamming devices) Exemption Amendment [F2007L01376].

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations—2007 Nos 3, 4 [F2007L01325], [F2007L01327].

Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act—Statement under subsection 230A(1)—Application for financial assistance—Strategic Capital Superannuation Fund.

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—2007—

Nos CR 37 (Erratum), CR 38, CR 39, CR 40, CR 41.

Nos PR 24 (Addendum), PR 42, PR 43, PR 44, PR 45.

Nos ST 2342 (Withdrawal), ST 2345 (Withdrawal), ST 2346 (Withdrawal), ST 2347 (Withdrawal), ST 2350 (Withdrawal), ST 2351 (Withdrawal), ST 2352 (Withdrawal), ST 2353 (Withdrawal), ST 2354 (Withdrawal), ST 2355 (Withdrawal), ST 2356 (Withdrawal), ST 2357 (Withdrawal), ST 2358 (Withdrawal), ST 2359 (Withdrawal), ST 2360 (Withdrawal), ST 2361 (Withdrawal), ST 2362 (Withdrawal), ST 2363 (Withdrawal), ST 2364 (Withdrawal), ST 2365 (Withdrawal).

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act—Determination under paragraph 15(1)(d)—2007 No. 1 [F2007L01322].

Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act—Instruments—2007—

Emergency service facility—Australian Capital Territory [F2007L01277].

Emergency service facility—New South Wales [F2007L01283].

Emergency service facility—Northern Territory [F2007L01276].

Emergency service facility—Tasmania [F2007L01278].

Telecommunications Act 1997—

Determinations under—

section 295P—2007—Telecommunications (Integrated public number database scheme—Conditions for authorisations) (No. 1) [F2007L01306]

section 463—2007—Telecommunications (Freephone and local rate numbers—Charities) Allocation (No. 1) [F2007L01425].

Instruments under—

subsection 285(3)—2007—Telecommunications (Integrated public number database—Permitted research purposes) (No. 1) [F2007L01309].

subsection 285(4)—2007—Telecommunications (Integrated public number database—Public number directory additional information) (No. 1) [F2007L01308].

subsection 285(5)—2007—Telecommunications (Integrated public number database—Public number directory requirements) (No. 1) [F2007L01307].

section 295N—2007—Telecommunications (Integrated public number database scheme—Criteria for deciding authorisation applications) (No. 1) [F2007L01310].

Telecommunications Amendment (Integrated Public Number Database) Act—Proclamation under subsection 2 (1) fixing 15 May 2007 as the day on which Schedule 1 to that Act commences [F2007L01311].

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act—Declaration—2007 Water efficiency labelling and standards amendment (No. 1) [F2007L01328].

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Bird, Ms Corcoran, Mr Garrett, Ms George, Ms Hoare, Jackie Kelly, Dr Lawrence and Mr Sercombe.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives