

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 187

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2007

1 The House met at 12.30 p.m. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 WATER BILL 2007

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—

Documents

Debate resumed by Mr Albanese who, by leave, presented the following documents:

National Water Reform—Council of Australian Governments' communiqués—

25 February 1994.

14 July 2006.

Mr Albanese 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 modern national water reform began with the Murray Darling Basin Act in 1992 and the historic COAG Agreement on water reform in 1994 led by the Keating Labor Government;
- (2) regrets that, despite clear warning signals about the health of the river system, it has taken 13 more years to see the next stage of Commonwealth action to address the problems of the Murray Darling Basin,
- (3) is concerned that the legislation before the House represents a second best solution on national water reform;
- (4) deplores the Government's failure to consult in good faith with State Governments and other stakeholders over the Water Bill 2007 and the related Intergovernmental Agreement;
- (5) believes the water reform process must continue so we properly fix the over-allocation of water licences in the Murray Darling Basin, ensure harmony between the environment and consumptive use, and help address the impact of drought and climate change on water supply;
- (6) notes that climate change will have a significant impact on water supply generally and the health of the Murray Darling Basin in particular;
- (7) notes that the CSIRO will provide an important report in late 2007 on the hydrology of the Basin and what the sustainable extraction levels are for the Basin; and
- (8) notes that the following is needed for national water reform:
 - (a) a cooperative and constructive approach with State Governments to assist water reform and investment in urban and rural water infrastructure;
 - (b) full implementation of the National Water Initiative principles agreed to in 2004;
 - (c) fixing of the over-allocation of water licences once and for all, and the establishment of coherent, streamlined rules which ensure the problem of over-allocation never recurs;
 - (d) recognition that economic instruments including water trading are necessary to address the fact that water has been over-allocated, undervalued and misdirected;

- (e) proper consultation with key stakeholders in the Murray Darling Basin, including all water users, farmers, water scientists, environment groups and the broader community to ensure the adoption and consistent use of efficient agricultural practices;
- (f) returning sufficient water to the rivers in the Murray Darling Basin to ensure the long term health of all rivers, wetlands and all connected groundwater systems in the Basin and, as a result, ensure the health of the communities and businesses that rely on the health of those rivers; and
- (g) measures to ensure industrial and urban water users adapt to maximise water efficiency”.

Debate continued.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 97, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Documents

Mr Abbott (Minister for Health and Ageing) presented the following documents:

Mersey Community Hospital—

Implementation plan, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, 14 August 2007.

Copies of letters from—

Mr Abbott to The Honourable Lara Giddings MHA, Minister for Health and Human Services, Tasmania, 14 August 2007.

Mr Rudd to Alderman Alwyn Boyd, Mayor of Burnie City Council, Tasmania, 10 August 2007.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member directed to leave

At 3.11 p.m. the Member for Melbourne (Mr Tanner) 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 he accordingly left the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member directed to leave

At 3.13 p.m. the Member for Corio (Mr G. M. O'Connor) was directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for disorderly behaviour, and he accordingly left the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member directed to leave

At 3.14 p.m. the Member for Calwell (Ms Vamvakinou) 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.

Questions without notice continued.

4 DOCUMENT

Mr Albanese, by leave, presented the following document:

Wolffdene Dam—Extract from Hansard, Parliament of Queensland, 3 October 1989.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The House was informed that Ms Plibersek had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s failure to address the crisis in housing affordability”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Plibersek addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Member directed to leave

At 4.04 p.m. the Member for Sydney (Ms Plibersek) 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.

Discussion continued.

The time allotted under sessional order No. 1 having expired, the discussion was interrupted.

6 **BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Bartlett (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Aviation Legislation Amendment (2007 Measures No. 1) 2007;

Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment 2007;

Maritime Legislation Amendment 2007;

Therapeutic Goods Amendment 2007; and

International Tax Agreements Amendment (No. 2) 2007.

Question—put and passed.

7 **WATER BILL 2007**

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 Albanese (see item No. 2, page 2065)*—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of standing orders 31 and 33 and adjournment debate—Motion without notice

Mr Turnbull (Minister for the Environment and Water Resources), by leave, moved—That standing order 31 (Automatic adjournment of the House) and standing order 33 (Limit on business after 9.30 p.m.) be suspended for this sitting and that debate on the question—that the House do now adjourn—continue for a period not exceeding 30 minutes after the motion for the adjournment of the House is moved.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 73

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Laming	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Mr Anderson	Mr Farmer	Mr Lindsay	Mr Somlyay
Mr Andrews	Mr Fawcett	Mr Lloyd	Dr Southcott
Fran Bailey	Mr M. D. Ferguson	Mr McArthur*	Dr Stone
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Mr Macfarlane	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Baker	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Markus	Mr Ticehurst
Mr Baldwin	Mr Haase	Mrs May	Mr Tollner
Mr Barresi	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Mirabella	Mr Truss
Mr Bartlett	Mr Hartsuyker	Mrs Moylan	Mr Tuckey
Mr Billson	Mr Henry	Mr Neville	Mr Turnbull
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hockey	Mr Pearce	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Ms J. Bishop	Mrs Hull*	Mr Prosser	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hunt	Mr Pyne	Mr Vasta
Mr Brough	Dr Jensen	Mr Randall	Mr Wakelin
Mr Cadman	Mr Johnson	Mr Richardson	Dr Washer
Mr Ciobo	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	Mr Wood
Mr Cobb	Mr Keenan	Mr Schultz	
Mrs Draper	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Secker	
Mr Dutton	Jackie Kelly	Mr Slipper	

NOES, 52

Mr Albanese	Ms K. M. Ellis	Mrs Irwin	Ms Plibersek
Mr Bevis	Mr Emerson	Mr Jenkins	Mr Price*
Ms Bird	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Kerr	Mr Ripoll
Mr Bowen	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms King	Ms Roxon
Ms A. E. Burke	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Mr Rudd
Mr A. S. Burke	Mr Garrett	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford
Mr Byrne	Mr Georganas	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe
Ms Corcoran	Ms George	Mr McMullan	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Gibbons	Mr Melham	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby*	Ms Grierson	Mr Murphy	Mr Tanner
Mr Edwards	Mr Griffin	Mr B. P. O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Elliot	Mr Hatton	Mr G. M. O'Connor	Ms Vamvakinou
Ms A. L. Ellis	Mr Hayes	Ms Owens	Mr Wilkie

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 330, 13 August 2007, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Document

Mr Turnbull presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the bill.

On the motion of Mr Turnbull, by leave, Government amendments (1) to (26) were made together, after debate.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Turnbull, by leave, the bill was read a third time.

8 WATER (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2007

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 third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr Turnbull (Minister for the Environment and Water Resources), the bill was read a third time.

9 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Turnbull (Minister for the Environment and Water Resources) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.30 p.m., adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 14 August 2007:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act—Determination—2007 Simplified GST accounting methods legislative instrument (No. 1) [F2007L02577].

Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act—Instrument—2007 Treatment principles ((Australian participants in British nuclear tests) 2006—Access to RAP equipment in institutions and under health programs) No. R11 [F2007L02430].

Broadcasting Services Act—Guidelines—Broadcasting services (technical planning)—6 July 2007 [F2007L02469].

Commonwealth Places (Mirror Taxes) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 241 [F2007L02401].

Customs Act—Orders—Tariff Concession—2007—

6 (9) July [F2007L02477], [F2007L02486], [F2007L02487], [F2007L02488], [F2007L02490], [F2007L02492], [F2007L02494], [F2007L02495], [F2007L02496].

13 (3) July [F2007L02498], [F2007L02499], [F2007L02500].

20 (6) July [F2007L02516], [F2007L02519], [F2007L02537], [F2007L02538], [F2007L02540], [F2007L02547].

23 (13) July [F2007L02484], [F2007L02502], [F2007L02503], [F2007L02504], [F2007L02505], [F2007L02506], [F2007L02508], [F2007L02509], [F2007L02510], [F2007L02511], [F2007L02513], [F2007L02515], [F2007L02517].

30 July [F2007L02407].

Family Law Act—Rules of court—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 242 [F2006L02483].

Higher Education Support Act—Guidelines—Other Grants—2007 Amendment No. 4 [F2007L02425].

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements under—

section 125(5)—August 2007.

sub-section 40(3)—August 2007.

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—Instrument—2007 MRCA Treatment Principles—Access to RAP equipment in institutions and under health programs, No. M12 [F2007L02428].

Native Title Amendment (Technical Amendments) Act—Proclamation under subsection 2(1) fixing 1 September 2007 as the day on which items 1 to 83 of Schedule 1 to that Act commence [F2007L02416].

Privacy Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 236 [F2007L02440].

Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act—Determination—2007 Regional telecommunications independent review committee (First review starting date) (No. 1) [F2007L02560].

Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 237 [F2007L02415].

Trade Practices Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 240 [F2007L02475].
Veterans' Entitlements Act—
Instrument under subsection 90(4)—2007 No. R10 [F2007L02429].
Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 239 [F2007L02214].
Wheat Marketing Act—Scheme—2007 Non-bulk wheat quality assurance scheme [F2007L02478].

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adams, Mr Andren, Mr Forrest, Ms Gambaro, Ms Hoare and Dr Lawrence.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives