

2008

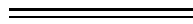
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 5

TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2008



1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**3 DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were presented:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 2006-07.

Social Security Appeals Tribunal—Report for 2006-07.

**4 AFGHANISTAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

Mr Fitzgibbon (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement on Afghanistan.

*Suspension of standing orders—Time for speech*

Mr O'Connor (Minister for Employment Participation), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Baldwin speaking for a period not exceeding 8 ½ minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Baldwin addressed the House.

**5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CLIMATE AND WATER PROGRAMS**

The House was informed that Mr Hunt had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to implement effective climate and water programs”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hunt addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

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

**6 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS**

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following bills:

18 February 2008—Message No. 6—

Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) 2008.

Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) (No. 1) 2007-2008.

Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) (No. 2) 2007-2008.

**7 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Price (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, at the adjournment of the House for this sitting, the following bills stand referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Appropriation (No. 3) 2007-2008; and  
 Appropriation (No. 4) 2007-2008.  
 Question—put and passed.

#### 8 COMMITTEES—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Mr L. D. T. Ferguson (Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services), by leave, moved—That Members be appointed as members of certain committees in accordance with the following schedule:

COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP
<b>STANDING</b>	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Mr Marles, Mr Trevor, Mr K. J. Thomson, Ms Rea, Mr Turnour, Ms Campbell
Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts	Ms George, Mr Zappia, Ms Livermore, Mrs D’Ath, Mr Dreyfus, Mrs Irwin
Communications	Ms Neal, Ms Rishworth, Mr Bradbury, Ms Collins, Ms Rea, Mr Georganas
Economics	Mr C. R. Thomson, Mr Bradbury, Mr Marles, Ms Owens, Ms Jackson, Mr Turnour
Education and Training	Ms Bird, Mr Clare, Mrs D’Ath, Mr Sidebottom, Ms Collins, Mr Zappia
Employment and Workplace Relations	Mr Hayes, Ms Bird, Mr Marles, Ms Hall, Ms Jackson, Mr Symon
Family, Community, Housing and Youth	Ms A. L. Ellis, Mr Raguse, Mr Trevor, Ms Collins, Ms Campbell, Ms Livermore
Health and Ageing	Mrs Irwin, Mr Bidgood, Ms Rishworth, Mr Georganas, Ms King, Ms Hall
House	Mr Price, Mr Hayes, Ms Grierson, Ms Saffin
Industry, Science and Innovation	Mr Bidgood, Mr Champion, Ms Rishworth, Ms Vamvakinou, Mr Cheeseman, Mr Symon
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	Ms King, Mr Cheeseman, Ms Campbell, Mr Sullivan, Mr Raguse, Mr Clare
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Mr Dreyfus, Mr Neumann, Ms Neal, Mr Perrett, Mr Melham, Mr Butler
Privileges and Members’ Interests	Mr Raguse, Mr Price, Mr C. R. Thomson, Mr Melham, Mr Georganas
Petitions	Mrs Irwin, Mr C. R. Thomson, Mr Neumann, Mr Adams, Ms Vamvakinou, Ms George
Primary Industries and Resources	Mr Champion, Mr Bidgood, Mr Sidebottom, Mr Adams, Ms Livermore, Mr Perrett
Procedure	Mr Price, Ms Bird, Ms Owens, Ms George
Publications	Ms Hall, Mr Hayes, Mr Sidebottom, Mr Sullivan
<b>JOINT STANDING</b>	
Parliamentary Library	Mr Perrett

Question—put and passed.

**9 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, express our loyalty to the Sovereign, and thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to the Parliament—

Debate resumed.

*Document*

Mr Secker, by leave, presented the following document:

Aerosol plumes—The cause of droughts and El Niño events by regional dimming—Keith Potts, February 2008.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan—Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**10 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2007-2008**

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 Hayes addressing the House—

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**11 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 8.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 9 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Bird, Mrs B. K. Bishop, Mr Hale and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2008

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 5

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2008

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1 The Main Committee met at 4.04 p.m.

2 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made, by leave.

3 **APOLOGY TO AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Rudd (Prime Minister)—That—

Today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

We reflect on their past mistreatment.

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations—this blemished chapter in our nation's history.

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.

We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.

A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.

A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia—

Debate resumed.

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

4 **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Ms Jackson, the Main Committee adjourned at 8.18 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed 9.30 a.m. tomorrow for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee