

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 24

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 2008

1 The House met, at 12 noon. The Speaker (Mr Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS 31 AND 33**

Mr Albanese (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That standing order 31 (automatic adjournment of the House) and standing order 33 (limit on business after 10 p.m.) be suspended for this sitting.

Question—put and passed.

**3 NATIONAL FUELWATCH (EMPOWERING CONSUMERS) BILL 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 by Mr Dutton who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House declines to give the bill a second reading and rejects in particular the obligation that fuel prices be fixed for 24 hours”.

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.

**4 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Rudd (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Swan (Treasurer), Mr Tanner (Minister for Finance and Deregulation) would answer questions on his behalf.

**5 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Member directed to leave*

At 3.29 p.m. the Member for Tangney (Dr Jensen) 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 continued.

**6 CENTENARY OF THE AGE PENSION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

Ms Macklin (Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement on the centenary of the age pension.

*Suspension of standing orders—Time for speech*

Ms Macklin, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Abbott speaking for a period not exceeding 12 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Abbott addressed the House.

**7 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

The Deputy Speaker presented the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 37 of 2007–2008—Performance audit—Management of credit cards.

Ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

**8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

The House was informed that Mr Truss (Leader of the Nationals) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s poor administration of programs in Regional Australia”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Truss addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

*Document*

Mr Albanese (Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government) presented the following document:

Regional partnerships—Letter from Simon Ash, Principal Adviser, Regional Partnerships to Ian McLean, CEO, Golden City Support Services Inc, 24 October 2007.

Discussion continued.

The time allotted under standing order 1 having expired, the discussion was interrupted.

**9 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

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

Customs Tariff Amendment (Tobacco Content) 2008;

Fisheries Legislation Amendment (New Governance Arrangements for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Other Matters) 2008;

Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) (Consequential Amendments) 2008;

Statute Law Revision 2008;

Communications Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) 2008;

Australian Energy Market Amendment (Minor Amendments) 2008;

Customs Amendment (Strengthening Border Controls) 2008;

Customs Legislation Amendment (Modernising) 2008; and

Veterans’ Affairs Legislation Amendment (International Agreements and Other Measures) 2008.

Question—put and passed.

**10 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY**

Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**11 HEALTH CARE (APPROPRIATION) AMENDMENT BILL 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 by Mr Hockey 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 funding provided is a short-term solution to a growing crisis in our public hospitals;
- (2) notes that the Government through its changes to the Medicare levy surcharge is placing a massive additional burden on public hospitals which has not been taken into account in current funding allocations;

- (3) notes that the Prime Minister pledged ‘the buck’ would stop with him in relation to public hospitals and this bill does nothing to address that;
- (4) notes that there is no long-term solution in this bill for public hospital funding to meet inflation; and
- (5) notes further that there is still no consistent and reliable reporting mechanism provided by the States and Territories that allows comparisons to be made between hospitals across Australia”.

Debate continued.

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

A division having been called for, in accordance with standing order 133 the division was deferred until 8 p.m.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

## 12 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 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.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

## 13 HEALTH CARE (APPROPRIATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2008—DEFERRED DIVISION

The order of the day having been read for the further consideration of the bill—

The following question, on which a division had been called for and deferred in accordance with standing order 133, was put, *viz.*—

That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question (*see item No. 11, p. 330*)—

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

AYES, 75

Mr Adams	Mr Dreyfus	Dr Kelly	Ms Rea
Mr Bevis	Mrs Elliot	Mr Kerr	Mr Ripoll
Mr Bidgood	Ms A. L. Ellis	Ms Livermore	Ms Rishworth
Ms Bird	Ms K. M. Ellis	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Bowen	Dr Emerson	Ms McKew	Ms Saffin
Mr Bradbury	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms Macklin	Mr Shorten
Ms A. E. Burke	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McMullan	Mr Sidebottom
Mr A. S. Burke	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Marles	Mr Snowdon
Mr Butler	Mr Garrett	Mr Melham	Mr Sullivan
Mr Byrne	Mr Georganas	Mr Murphy	Mr Symon
Ms Campbell	Ms George	Ms Neal	Mr Tanner
Mr Champion	Mr Gibbons	Mr Neumann	Mr C. R. Thomson
Mr Cheeseman	Mr Gray	Mr B. P. J. O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Clare	Ms Grierson	Ms Owens	Mr Trevor
Ms Collins	Mr Hale	Ms Parke	Mr Turnour
Mr Combet	Ms Hall*	Mr Perrett	Ms Vamvakinou
Mr Danby	Mr Hayes*	Ms Plibersek	Mr Windsor
Mrs D'Ath	Mrs Irwin	Mr Price	Mr Zappia
Mr Debus	Ms Jackson	Mr Raguse	

## NOES, 60

Mr Andrews	Mrs Gash	Ms Ley	Mr Schultz
Fran Bailey	Mr Georgiou	Mr Lindsay	Mr Secker
Mr Baldwin	Mr Haase	Mr Macfarlane	Mr Simpkins
Mr Billson	Mr Hartsuyker	Ms Marino	Mr Slipper
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr A. G. Hawke	Mrs Markus	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr D. P. M. Hawker	Mrs May	Mr Somlyay
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hockey	Mrs Mirabella	Dr Southcott
Mr Ciobo	Mrs Hull*	Mr Morrison	Dr Stone
Mr Cobb	Mr Hunt	Mr Neville	Mr Truss
Mr Costello	Mr Irons	Mr Pearce	Mr Tuckey
Mr Coulton	Dr Jensen	Mr Pyne	Mr Turnbull
Mr Downer	Mr Johnson*	Mr Ramsey	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Dutton	Mr Katter	Mr Randall	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Farmer	Mr Keenan	Mr Robert	Dr Washer
Mr Forrest	Mr Laming	Mr Ruddock	Mr Wood

\* 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. 35, 15 May 2008, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mrs Elliot (Minister for Ageing), the bill was read a third time.

**14 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mrs Elliot (Minister for Ageing), the bill was read a third time.

**15 POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS**

Ordered—That business intervening before order of the day No. 8, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**16 LAW OFFICERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr McClelland (Attorney-General), the bill was read a third time.

**17 FARM HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT AMENDMENT (ADDITIONAL DROUGHT ASSISTANCE MEASURES) BILL 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.

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

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 36, 26 May 2008, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr A. S. Burke (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the bill was read a third time.

**18 WHEAT EXPORT MARKETING BILL 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.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

**WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2008**

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Albanese—Leader of the House), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**19 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Albanese (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 12.05 a.m., adjourned until 9 a.m. today.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Crean, Ms King\*, Mrs Moylan, Mr S. F. Smith and Mr Swan.

\* On leave

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

2008

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

No. 24

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 2008

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1 The Main Committee met at 4.03 p.m.

2 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

3 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2008-2009—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.

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*Suspension of meeting*

At 8.13 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of meeting*

At 8.28 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

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Debate continued.

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

4 **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Ms Hall, the Main Committee adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

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

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