

2004-05

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 47

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2005

Contents

1	Meeting of Senate	1154
2	Government Documents	1154
3	Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—Leave to Meet During Sitting.....	1154
4	Order of Business—Rearrangement.....	1154
5	Australian Technical Colleges (Flexibility in Achieving Australia’s Skills Needs) Bill 2005.....	1154
6	Notices.....	1155
7	Foreign Affairs—Bali—Terrorist Attacks	1156
8	Adjournment	1156
9	Attendance.....	1157

1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 12.30 pm. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

2 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The following government documents were tabled:

Attorney-General's Department—Review of the regulation of access to communications—Report by Anthony S Blunn, AO, August 2005.

Australian Bureau of Statistics—Report for 2004-05.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2005.

Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report for 2004-05.

Australian Trade Commission (AUSTRADE)—Review of the Export Market Development Grants Scheme—Report, June 2005.

Crimes Act 1914—Report on controlled operations for 2004-05.

Payments System Board—Report for 2004-05.

Reserve Bank of Australia—Equity and diversity—Report for 2004-05.

3 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator Ferris, by leave and at the request of the Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (Senator Payne), moved—That the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate today, from 4 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005.

Question put and passed.

4 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Colbeck) moved—That—

(a) government business notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of the Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) for today, relating to the consideration of legislation, be postponed till the next day of sitting; and

(b) government business orders of the day no. 1 (Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2005) and no. 2 (Asbestos-related Claims (Management of Commonwealth Liabilities) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2005 and a related bill) be postponed till the next day of sitting.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

5 AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGES (FLEXIBILITY IN ACHIEVING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS) BILL 2005

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Lundy in continuation.

6 NOTICES

The Chair of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (Senator Troeth): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee on the provisions of the Student Assistance Legislation Amendment Bill 2005 be extended to 13 October 2005. (*general business notice of motion no. 264*)

The Chair of the Economics References Committee (Senator Stephens): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Economics References Committee on possible links between household debt, demand for imported goods and Australia's current account deficit be extended to 13 October 2005. (*general business notice of motion no. 265*)

Senator Milne: To move on 6 October 2005—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the release on 22 September 2005 of the report, entitled *Climate change health impacts in Australia: Effects of dramatic CO₂ emission reductions*, by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA);
- (b) expresses its concern about the findings of the report that if emissions continue unabated:
 - (i) by 2100, 8 000 to 15 000 Australians could die each year from heat-related illnesses,
 - (ii) the dengue transmission zone could reach as far south as Sydney, and
 - (iii) climate change is likely to exacerbate poverty and may lead to large scale population displacement throughout the Asia Pacific region; and
- (c) calls on the Government to implement the actions recommended by the ACF and the AMA to:
 - (i) reduce Australia's greenhouse emissions by between 60 and 90 per cent by 2050 to avoid dangerous levels of climate change,
 - (ii) ensure an additional 10 per cent of Australia's electricity comes from renewable energy sources by 2010, with further measures to ensure this figure grows,
 - (iii) take a leadership role internationally to ensure a global approach that aims at preventing global temperatures increasing more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and
 - (iv) make building resilience to climate change in developing countries an Australian aid priority. (*general business notice of motion no. 266*)

Senator Stott Despoja: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate congratulates Australian scientists, Professor Barry J Marshall and Dr J Robin Warren on being awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their 1982 discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease. (*general business notice of motion no. 267*)

Senator Carr: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate supports the maintenance of compulsory voting for federal elections. (*general business notice of motion no. 268*)

The Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee (Senator Bartlett): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee on the economic impact of salinity in the Australian environment be extended to the second sitting day in 2006. (*general business notice of motion no. 269*)

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the current Consumer Price Index method used for indexing Australian Government civilian superannuation pensions over the past decade falls well short of the increases enjoyed by members of Parliament, aged pensioners, average weekly ordinary time earnings and male total average weekly earnings; and
- (b) calls on the Government to establish a more appropriate and fair method of indexation for Commonwealth superannuants. (*general business notice of motion no. 270*)

7 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—BALI—TERRORIST ATTACKS

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill), by leave, moved—That the Senate—

- (a) unreservedly condemns the terrorist atrocities in Bali on 1 October 2005;
- (b) extends its sympathy to the families and loved ones of all those who have been killed or injured as a result of the attacks;
- (c) expresses on behalf of the Australian community its hope for an early and full recovery of all those injured;
- (d) acknowledges and thanks those who assisted in the rescue and relief efforts;
- (e) expresses on behalf of the Australian people its solidarity with the people of Bali and the wider Indonesian community at this time of shared grief;
- (f) expresses its full support for the Indonesian authorities in their efforts to bring to justice those responsible for this outrage; and
- (g) resolves to continue the fight against terrorism in all its forms.

The motion was supported and all senators present stood in silence as a mark of respect to those killed as a result of the terrorist attacks.

Question passed.

8 ADJOURNMENT

The Minister for Defence (Senator Hill) moved—That, as a mark of respect to the memory of those killed as a result of the terrorist attacks in Bali, the Senate do now adjourn.

The Senate adjourned at 3.40 pm till Wednesday, 5 October 2005 at 9.30 am.

9 **ATTENDANCE**

Present, all senators except Senators Abetz, Bishop, Hurley, Kemp*, McLucas, Payne*, Ray* and Vanstone (* on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate