

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT No. 8**

**Petitions**

**and**

**Ministerial Responses**

**10 February 2020**

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Chair        | Mr Llew O'Brien MP    |
| Deputy Chair | Hon Justine Elliot MP |
|              | Mrs Bridget Archer MP |
|              | Ms Lisa Chesters MP   |
|              | Ms Gladys Liu MP      |
|              | Mr Julian Simmonds MP |
|              | Mr James Stevens MP   |
|              | Ms Susan Templeman MP |

## **Report relating to the consideration of petitions and matters relating to the petitions system**

**The committee met in private session on 27 November, 4 December 2019 and 5 February 2020.**

### **1. The committee resolved to present the following petitions in accordance with standing order 207:**

From 4 petitioners – regarding foreign ownership of land in Australia  
**(EN1131)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting a cessation of foreign aid by Australia until Australia's government debt has been paid off **(EN1132)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting that Australia impose economic sanctions on China because of the human rights situation in Hong Kong **(EN1133)**

From 6 petitioners – requesting that Uluru be re-opened for climbing  
**(EN1135)**

From 22 petitioners – requesting that Australia Day, the national anthem and the Australian flag be protected from change by legislation **(EN1136)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting a Bill of Rights be introduced into the Australian Constitution **(EN1140)**

From 35 petitioners – requesting that the resources of the Australian Defence Force be utilised to fight bush fires **(EN1141)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting a change to the packaging laws to minimise waste **(EN1142)**

From 68 petitioners – regarding the Adani coal mine **(EN1143)**

From 1413 petitioners – requesting an Australian Bill of Rights **(EN1144)**

From 136 petitioners – regarding s44 of the Australian Constitution and the citizenship status of Scott Morrison MP **(EN1145)**

From 10 petitioners – requesting that incandescent light bulbs not be phased out as they are necessary for people with Autism and light sensitivity **(EN1146)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting that incandescent light bulbs not be phased out as they are necessary for people with Autism and light sensitivity **(EN1147)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting that incandescent light bulbs not be phased out as they are necessary for people with Autism and light sensitivity **(EN1148)**

From 1988 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission to investigate the operations and transactions of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority **(EN1149)**

From 76 petitioners – requesting that Julian Assange be returned to Australia  
**(EN1151)**

From 5620 petitioners – requesting the Medical Treatment Overseas Program  
(MTOP) include access to clinical trials **(EN1154)**

From 17 petitioners – requesting financial assistance for the visually impaired  
**(EN1155)**

From 132 petitioners – regarding climate change, emissions reduction and  
protection of natural landmarks such as the Great Barrier Reef **(EN1156)**

From 1007 petitioners – requesting an independent team of scientists be  
assembled to examine the health effects of 5G technology **(EN1157)**

From 8 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission to investigate the  
financial treatment of the unemployed and single parents **(EN1159)**

From 8 petitioners – regarding secondary boycott provisions and the  
Competition and Consumer Act and the Trade Practices Act **(EN1160)**

From 164 petitioners – regarding libertarian Andrew Cooper and the Foreign  
Influence Transparency Scheme in Australia **(EN1162)**

From 10 petitioners – requesting that basic first-aid instruction be mandatory  
for all school aged children **(EN1165)**

From 6 petitioners – regarding additional charges by businesses on top of the price of the purchase **(EN1166)**

From 5917 petitioners – regarding parental leave for premature or sick newborns **(EN1167)**

From 51 petitioners – regarding strip searching of minors by police in Australia **(EN1168)**

From 370 petitioners – regarding human rights in Iraq **(EN1169)**

From 238 petitioners – requesting the legalisation of vaping in Australia **(EN1170)**

From 21 petitioners – requesting the closure of fossil fuel plants and increased use of renewable energy sources **(EN1171)**

From 223 petitioners – regarding practices in the Department of Veterans' Affairs **(EN1172)**

From 20 petitioners – regarding processing times for 887 visa for permanent residency in Australia **(EN1173)**

From 273 petitioners requesting a referendum regarding Australia's withdrawal from the United Nations **(EN1174)**

From 1270 petitioners – requesting a ban on helium released into the atmosphere, especially in balloons **(EN1175)**

From 19 petitioners – regarding Australia’s response to climate change **(EN1177)**

From 7 petitioners – requesting superannuation money be used to pay workers an increased salary **(EN1179)**

From 1078 petitioners – requesting an emergency 2-day sitting of the House to address Australia’s bushfires and the wider climate emergency **(EN1180)**

From 14,025 petitioners – requesting legislation to ban plastic packaging and plastic bags for supermarket items **(EN1181)**

From 174 petitioners – regarding the sale of Australian assets and land to foreign interests **(EN1182)**

From 37 petitioners – requesting legislation to ban plastic packaging for supermarket items and to subsidise the purchase of products from bulk food stores **(EN1183)**

From 55 petitioners – requesting the construction of nuclear power stations in Australia **(EN1184)**

From 99 petitioners – requesting the creation of a Minister for Men and Boys in the federal government **(EN1185)**

From 89 petitioners – requesting that Australia hold a referendum on withdrawing from the United Nations, the Paris climate agreement, and on foreign ownership of Australian infrastructure, assets and land **(EN1186)**

From 5 petitioners – regarding statehood for the Northern Territory **(EN1188)**

From 6 petitioners – regarding the possibility of establishing a global city state **(EN1190)**

From 621 petitioners – requesting an investigation into the apartment developer Ralan Group **(EN1196)**

From 7 petitioners – requesting all petitions relating to breaches of s44 of the Australian Constitution be referred to the High Court **(EN1198)**

From 28 petitioners – requesting that Peter Dutton MP be referred to the High Court regarding his RHT family trust **(EN1199)**

From 504 petitioners – requesting that emissions associated with electricity generation be reduced by a minimum of 10% per annum from 2019 to reach zero by 2030 **(EN1201)**

From 39 petitioners – regarding Australia’s regional processing and resettlement policy **(EN1202)**



From 15 petitioners – regarding the lending policies of Australian banks  
**EN1204)**

From 181 petitioners – regarding funding for nature tourism experiences in  
the Lithgow area of NSW **(PN0453)**

From 2173 petitioners – regarding Australia’s bail-in legislation **(PN0456)**

From 13,187 petitioners – requesting that APRA be disbanded and replaced  
with something similar to America’s Glass-Steagall Act of 1933 **(PN0457)**

From 74 petitioners – requesting the Newstart allowance be raised by \$75 per  
week **(PN0458)**

From 1015 petitioners regarding renewable energy sources and the climate  
crisis in Australia **(PN0459)**

From 571 petitioners regarding vaccination legislation in Australia **(PN0460)**

From 1 petitioner regarding the annexation of Indian Occupied Kashmir by  
the Indian Government **(PN0461)**

**The following ministerial responses to petitions were received:**

From the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters – to a petition regarding tax exemptions for religious institutions **(EN0427)**

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs – to a petition regarding foreign influence and asset ownership in Australia **(EN0657)**

From the Assistant treasurer – to a petition regarding consumer rights and requesting an investigation into price gouging **(EN0782)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding a national rural mental health strategy **(EN0887)**

From the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding refugee family reunification **(EN0914)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition regarding mobile phone portability scams **(EN0917)**

From the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding Ms Sarah Isaac's application for evidence of Australian citizenship **(EN0920)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding the establishment of a Royal Commission to investigate the family law system **(EN0921)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding provision of legal aid in family law matters **(EN0922)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition regarding “loot-boxes” in computer games **(EN0930)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition requesting that the 5G mobile network not be rolled out until health effects are known **(EN0942)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding outsourcing of government departments **(EN0959)**

From the Assistant Treasurer – to a petition regarding the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme **(EN0967)**

From the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology – to a petition regarding access to Australian Standards for the general public and business owners **(EN0975)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition requesting that the 5G mobile network not be rolled out until health effects are known **(EN0977)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition requesting that the 5G mobile network not be rolled out until health effects are known **(EN0978)**

From the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction – to a petition regarding nuclear energy production and baseload electricity **(EN0980)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding the prosecution of former ATO employee Richard for his public interest disclosure **(EN0981)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition regarding the regulation of angry reviewers on the internet **(EN0989)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition requesting truth in advertising for foreign-language films **(EN1000)**

From the Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government – to a petition requesting an opt-out system for organ and tissue donation rather than the current opt-in system **(EN1021)**

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition requesting that paying parents in child support cases have their concerns recognised **(EN1026)**

From the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment – to a petition requesting human rights clauses be included in the Australia-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement (A-HKFTA) **(EN1032)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding the religious rights of Pastafarians **(EN1033 and EN1034)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition requesting a Royal Commission be established to investigate the plight of boys in the family law system **(EN1035)**

From the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs – to a petition regarding Australia’s immigration detention policy for refugees and asylum seekers **(EN1039)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition requesting an Australian trial of food immunotherapy for food allergies **(EN1040)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding the penalties for child sexual abuse in Australia **(EN1045)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition requesting funding for the building of a South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) Health Hub in Bunbury, WA **(EN1047)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition requesting that a video streaming tax not be implemented by NBN Co **(EN1051)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding the Australian Government’s regional processing and resettlement arrangements **(EN1055)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding the Australian Government’s regional processing and resettlement arrangements **(EN1057)**

From the Minister for Communications, Cyber Security and the Arts – to a petition requesting the reinstatement of a post office at Illawong/Alfords Point, NSW **(PN0415)**

**The terms of the petitions and the responses will be recorded in Hansard.**

**Mr Llew O'Brien MP**

**Chair – Petitions Committee**