

**THE SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF
OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES
TO REPORTS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
JOINT COMMITTEES**

(also incorporating reports tabled and
details of Government responses made in the period between
6 December 2006, the date of the last schedule, and 20 June 2007)

21 June 2007

THE SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE REPORTS

On 21 June 2007, the Government presented its response to a schedule of outstanding Government responses to parliamentary committee reports tabled in the House of Representatives on 7 December 2006.

It is Government policy to respond to parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation. In 1978 the Fraser Government implemented a policy of responding in the House by ministerial statement within six months of the tabling of a committee report. In 1983, the Hawke Government reduced this response time to three months but continued the practice of responding by ministerial statement. The Keating Government generally responded by means of a letter to a committee chair, with the letter being tabled in the House at the earliest opportunity. In 1996, the Howard Government affirmed the commitment to respond to relevant parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation.

The attached schedule lists committee reports tabled and government responses to House and joint committee reports made since the last schedule was presented on 7 December 2006. It also lists reports for which the House has received no government response. A schedule of outstanding responses will continue to be presented at approximately six monthly intervals, generally in the last sitting weeks of the winter and spring sittings.

The schedule does not include advisory reports on bills introduced into the House of Representatives unless the reports make recommendations which are wider than the provisions of the bills and which could be the subject of a government response. The Government's response to these reports is apparent in the resumption of consideration of the relevant legislation by the House. Also not included are reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, the House of Representatives Committee of Members' Interests, the Committee of Privileges, the Publications Committee (other than reports on inquiries) and the Selection Committee. Government responses to reports of the Public Works Committee are normally reflected in motions for the approval of works after the relevant report has been presented and considered. Reports from other committees which do not include recommendations are only included when first tabled.

Reports of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit primarily make administrative recommendations but may make policy recommendations. A government response is required in respect of such policy recommendations made by the committee. However, responses to administrative recommendations are made in the form of an Executive Minute provided to, and subsequently tabled by, the committee. Agencies responding to administrative recommendations are required to provide an Executive Minute within 6 months of tabling a report. The committee monitors the provision of such responses. Reports which do not contain policy recommendations are only included when first tabled.

21 June 2007

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (House, Standing)			
Unlocking the future: The report of the Inquiry into the Reeves Review of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>	30-08-99	No formal response to date ⁴	No
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (House, Standing)			
Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities – Interim Report	05-05-04	No response to date ⁵	No
Getting water right(s) – The future of rural Australia	21-06-04	No response to date ⁵	No
Taking control: a national approach to pest animals	28-11-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Skills: Rural Australia's need	26-02-07	No response to date	No
Australian Crime Commission (Joint, Statutory)			
Supplementary report to the Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	11-08-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Review of the <i>Australian Crime Commission Act 2002</i>	10-11-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Examination of the Australian Crime Commission Annual Report 2004-2005	19-10-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Inquiry into the manufacture, importation and use of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs (AOSD)	28-02-07	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Examination of the Australian Crime Commission Annual Report 2005-06	18-06-07	Time has not expired	
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (House, Standing)			
From reel to unreal: future opportunities for Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries	21-06-04	No response to date ⁶	No
Digital Television: Who's Buying It?	13-02-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Community Television: Options for digital broadcasting	12-02-07	No response to date	No
Report: Tuning In To Community Broadcasting	20-06-07	Time has not expired	
Corporations and Securities (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on aspects of the regulation of proprietary companies	08-03-01	No response to date ⁷	No
Corporations and Financial Services (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on the regulations and ASIC policy statements made under the <i>Financial Services Reform Act 2001</i>	23-10-02	No response to date ⁸	No
Inquiry into the review of the <i>Managed Investments Act 1998</i>	12-12-02	No response to date ⁵	No
Inquiry into Regulation 7.1.29 in Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No.3), Statutory Rules 2003 No.85	26-06-03	No response to date ⁸	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Money matters in the bush-Inquiry into the level of banking & financial services in rural, regional & remote areas of Australia	15-01-04	No response to date ⁹	No
Report on the ATM fee structure	15-01-04	No response to date ¹⁰	No
Corporations amendment regulations 2003	24-03-04	No response to date ⁸	No
Corporations Amendment Regulations 7.1.29A, 7.1.35A and 7.1.40(h)	02-06-04	No response to date ¹¹	No
Property Investment Advice – Safe as Houses?	23-06-05	No response to date ¹²	No
Timeshare: The Price of Leisure	05-09-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, December 2005	13-02-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Corporate responsibility: Managing risk and creating value	21-06-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, August 2006	16-08-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Corporations Amendment (Takeovers) Bill 2006 [Exposure Draft]	23-02-07	No response to date	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission	01-03-07	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Corporations Amendment (Insolvency) Bill 2007 [Exposure Draft]; Corporations and Australian Securities and Investments Commission Amendment Regulations 2007 [Exposure Draft]	29-03-07	Time has not expired	
Corporations Legislation Amendment (Simpler Regulatory System) Bill 2007 and related bills	19-06-07	Time has not expired	
Economics, Finance and Public Administration (House, Standing)			
Review of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 2003	21-06-04	No response to date ⁵	No
Improving the superannuation savings of people under 40	19-06-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia & Payments System Board Annual Report 2005 (First report)	14-08-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 2005 (Second report)	04-12-06	No response required	
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 2006 (First Report)	21-05-07	No response required	
Servicing our future – Inquiry into the current and future directions of Australia’s services export sector	18-06-07	Time has not expired	
Education and Vocational Training (House, Standing)			
Top of the class: Report of the inquiry into teacher education	26-02-07	No response to date	No

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Electoral Matters (Joint, Standing)			
Funding and Disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates	30-03-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Civics and electoral education	18-06-07	Time has not expired	
Employment and Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation (House, Standing)			
Working for Australia's future: increasing participation in the work force	14-03-05	22-05-07	No
Making it work: Inquiry into independent contracting and labour hire arrangements	17-08-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Shifting gears: Employment in the automotive component manufacturing sector	04-12-06	09-05-07	No
Current vacancies: Workforce challenges facing the Australian tourism sector	18-06-07	Time has not expired	
Environment and Heritage (House, Standing)			
Public good conservation: Our challenge for the 21 st century	27-09-01	No response to date ¹³	No
Sustainable cities	12-09-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Inquiry into a Sustainability Charter, Review of Green Office Procurement Audit (Interim Report)	04-09-06	No response to date ⁵	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Family and Human Services (House, Standing)			
Balancing Work and Family	07-12-06	No response to date	No
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)			
Australia's free trade agreements with Singapore, Thailand and the United States: progress to date and lessons for the future	07-11-05	29-03-07	No
Australia's Defence Relations with the United States	22-05-06	01-03-07	No
Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with North Africa	22-05-06	31-05-07	No
Australia's relationship with the Republic of Korea; and developments on the Korean peninsula	22-06-06	29-03-07	No
Review of the Defence Annual Report 2004-05	16-10-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Review of Australia-New Zealand trade and investment relations	07-12-06	24-05-07	No
Review of Australia's relationship with Malaysia	26-03-07	Time has not expired	
Health and Ageing (House, Standing)			
The Blame Game: Report on the inquiry into health funding	04-12-06	No response to date ⁵	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Industry, Science and Resources (House, Standing)			
Getting a better return: Inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials second report	24-09-01	01-03-07	No
Industry and Resources (House, Standing)			
Australia's Uranium: Greenhouse friendly fuel for an energy hungry world	04-12-06	29-03-07	No
Intelligence and Security (Joint, Statutory)			
Review of administration and expenditure: Australian Intelligence Organisations Number 4 - Recruitment and Training	14-08-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Annual Report of Committee Activities 2005-2006	11-09-06	No response required	
Review of the relisting of Al-Qa'ida and Jemaah Islamiyah as terrorist organisations	16-10-06	No response required	
Review of security and counter terrorism legislation	04-12-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Review of the re-listing of the ASG, JuA, GIA and GSPC	26-02-07	No response required	
Review of the re-listing of Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (TQJBR) as a terrorist organisation under the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i>	09-05-07	No response required	
Review of the re-listing of Ansar al-Sunna, JeM, LeJ, EIJ, IAA, AAA and IMU as terrorist organisations	12-06-07	No response required	

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Legal and Constitutional Affairs (House, Standing)			
The third paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution	30-11-95	No response to date	No
Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime	11-08-04	12-06-07	No
Harmonisation of Legal Systems within Australia and between Australia and New Zealand	04-12-06	No response to date ⁵	
The long road to statehood: Report of the inquiry into the federal implications of statehood for the Northern Territory	28-05-07	Time has not expired	
Migration (Joint, Standing)			
Review of Audit Report No. 1 2005-2006: Management of Detention Centre Contracts Part B	05-12-05	24-05-07	No
Negotiating the maze: Review of arrangements for overseas skills recognition, upgrading and license	11-09-06	No response to date ⁵	No
Report on the Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand: Australia – New Zealand Committee Exchange Program	04-12-06	No response required	
National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)			
Norfolk Island electoral matters	26-08-02	No response to date ¹⁴	No
Antarctica: Australia's Pristine Frontier. Report on the adequacy of funding for Australia's Antarctic Program	23-06-05	01-03-07	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Norfolk Island Financial Sustainability: The Challenge – Sink or Swim	01-12-05	No response to date ¹⁴	No
Current and future governance arrangements for the Indian Ocean Territories	13-06-06	14-06-07	No
Report on the visit to Norfolk Island 2-5 August 2006	16-10-06	No response required	
Review of the Griffin Legacy Amendments	26-03-07	Time has not expired	No
Native Title and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Land Account (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on the operation of Native Title Representative bodies	21-03-06	15-02-07	No
Procedure (House, Standing)			
House Estimates: consideration of the annual estimates by the House of Representatives	13-10-03	No response to date ⁵	No
Media coverage of House proceedings including the Chamber, Main committee and committees (Final report)	10-10-05	No response to date ¹⁵	No
Learning from other parliaments: study program 2006	04-09-06	No response required	
Encouraging an interactive Chamber	07-12-06	No response to date	No
Motion to suspend standing orders and condemn a Member: Report on events of 10 October 2006	07-12-06	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Public Accounts and Audit (Joint, Statutory)			
Corporate governance and accountability arrangements for Commonwealth government business enterprises, December 1999 (Report No. 372)	16-02-00	10-05-07	No
Developments in aviation security since the committee's June 2004 <i>Report 400: Review of aviation security in Australia – An interim report</i> (Report 406)	07-12-05	No response to date ⁵	No
Annual report 2005-2006 (Report 408)	30-10-06	No response required	
Developments in Aviation Security since the Committee's June 2004 Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia (Report 409)	04-12-06	No response to date ⁵	
Publications (Joint, Standing)			
Distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series	29-05-06	24-05-07	No
Science and Innovation (House, Standing)			
Pathways to technological innovation	19-06-06	30-11-06 (interim) ¹⁶	No
Transport and Regional Services (House, Standing)			
Regional aviation and island transport services: Making ends meet	01-12-03	10-05-07	No
Ship salvage: Inquiry into maritime salvage in Australian waters	21-06-04	21-03-07	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Treaties (Joint, Standing)			
The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (61st Report)	23-06-04	No response to date ¹⁷	No
Review of Treaties tabled on 11 October 2005 (2), 28 February and 28 March 2006 (2) (75th Report)	14-08-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled on 28 March (3) and 10 May 2006 (76th Report)	16-08-06	No response required	
Review on Treaties tabled on 20 June and 8 August 2006 (77th Report)	09-10-06	No response required	
Treaty Scrutiny: A Ten Year Review (78th Report)	09-10-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled on 10 May (2), 5 and 6 September 2006 (79th Report)	19-10-06	No response required	
Review of treaties tabled on 28 March (4) and 5 September (2) 2006 (80th Report)	19-10-06	22-03-07	No
Treaties tabled on 8 August 2006 (2) (81st Report)	06-12-06	No response to date ⁵	
Treaty tabled on 28 November 2006 (82 nd Report)	07-12-06	No response required	
Treaties tabled on 20 June (2), 17 October, 28 November (2) 2006 and CO ₂ sequestration in sub-seabed formations (83 rd Report)	26-03-07	No response required	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Treaty tabled on 6 December 2006 (84 th Report)	20-06-07	Time has not expired	

Notes

1. The date of tabling is the date the report was presented to the House of Representatives. In the case of joint committees, the date shown is the date of first presentation to either the House or the Senate. Reports published when the House (or Houses) are not sitting are tabled at a later date.
2. If the source for the date is not the *Votes and Proceedings* of the House of Representatives or the *Journals of the Senate*, the source is shown in an endnote.
3. The time specified is three months from the date of tabling.

These notes incorporate the response circulated by the Leader of the House on 21 June 2007 entitled "Government Responses to Parliamentary Committee reports. Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 7 December 2006".

4. Amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* reflecting the government's reforms were introduced to Parliament on 31 May 2006 and passed 17 August 2006. The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006* received Royal Assent on 5 September 2006. The government has indicated that no further response is required. No formal response has been provided to the committee.
5. The government response is being considered and will be tabled in due course.
6. The government response will be finalised in the light of the outcomes of the Review of the Australian government Film Funding Support.
7. The government is currently consulting on a substantial number of initiatives to simplify corporate regulation. It is expected that some of these initiatives will impact on the regulation of proprietary companies. A response to the report will therefore be provided in due course.
8. The government is currently reviewing and consulting on a substantial number of initiatives to refine the regulation of financial services which take into account the recommendations made in this report. A response which takes into account the refinements will therefore be provided in due course.
9. The response is being updated to reflect recent developments and will be tabled in due course.
10. The response is being updated to reflect recent developments and will be tabled in conjunction with that for 'Money Matters in the Bush' (see above).
11. The government continues to respond to this report through changes to the Corporations Regulations and ongoing proposals to make further refinements to the regulation of financial services based on public comment. A response to this report will be tabled in due course.

12. A response is being prepared. However, before finalising this response, the Government considers it is important to incorporate any findings of the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs working party that is examining whether property investment advice warrants further regulation. The working party is currently finalising its position.
13. The government considers that the substance of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage recommendations of the 'Public Good Conservation: Our Challenge for the 21st Century' is effectively being addressed or considered by various policy and program development processes as overseen by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and by the implementation of more recent Government Mechanisms, for example, the Natural Heritage Trust 2, The National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the Market Based Instruments Pilots Programme, Biodiversity Hotspots Programme, Tasmanian Forest Conservation Fund and changes to the Taxation Act in respect to donations of land for conservation. As such, the report has been overtaken by events and the government will not be tabling a further response.
14. A decision on Norfolk Island governance was made in 2006. A response to the report's recommendations are being considered and will be tabled in due course.
15. The government response is being considered and will be tabled in due course. A response from the Speaker was received on 14 February 2007.
16. It is expected that the response will be finalised following conclusion of the 2007/08 Budget process.
17. Legislation to give effect to the Free Trade Agreement has now been passed. The government has stated that no further response is required. The committee awaits a response to recommendations of the Free Trade Agreement report.