

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECTION COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 18

Committee and delegation business

and

private Members' business

13 September 2023

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Hon M Dick MP Speaker
Members	Ms J Ryan MP (Chief Government Whip)
	Mr B van Manen MP (Chief Opposition Whip)
	Mr S Bates MP
	Ms A Byrnes MP
	Hon M Coulton MP
	Dr M Freeland MP
	Dr C Garland MP
	Hon M Price MP
	Mr R Ramsey MP
	Ms T Roberts MP
	Ms R Sharkie MP
	Mr D Smith MP
	Ms A Stanley MP

Ms S Claydon MP, Deputy Speaker

This committee is supported by staff of the Department of the House of Representatives

Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation business and of private Members' business

1. The Committee met in private session on Tuesday, 12 September 2023.
2. The Committee deliberated on items of committee and delegation business that had been notified, private Members' business items listed on the Notice Paper and notices lodged on Tuesday, 12 September 2023, and determined the order of precedence and times on Monday, 16 October 2023, as follows:

Items for House of Representatives Chamber (10.10 am to 12 noon)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices

- 1 MS WATSON-BROWN:** To present a Bill for an Act to impose a curfew and related restrictions on aircraft movements at Brisbane Airport, and for related purposes. (*Brisbane Airport Curfew and Demand Management Bill 2023*)
(Notice given 6 September 2023.)

Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.

- 2 DR SCAMPS:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and for related purposes. (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Expanding the Water Trigger) Bill 2023*)
(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.

3 MS CHANEY: To move—That:

- (1) this House establish a joint select committee, to be known as the Joint Standing Committee on Oversight of the Implementation of Recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme to inquire into and report upon:
 - (a) the implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission, which are directed at strengthening the Australian Public Service (APS), improving the processes of the Department of Social Services and Services Australia, and reinforcing the capability of oversight agencies;
 - (b) the implementation of recommendations of other reviews relating to the APS which the Royal Commission endorsed or specifically supported;
 - (c) the work of the APS Integrity Taskforce to deliver a ‘pro-integrity culture’ across the APS, including a comprehensive response to the themes emerging from the Royal Commission;
 - (d) action taken in response to other observations by the Royal Commission relating to the capability of the APS and budget processes; and
 - (e) any matter in relation to the Royal Commission's recommendations referred to the committee by a resolution of either House of the Parliament;
- (2) the committee present reports every six months until the final sitting day of the 47th Parliament;
- (3) the committee consist of nine members—four senators, and five members of the House of Representatives, as follows:
 - (a) two members of the House of the Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips;
 - (b) two members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips;
 - (c) two senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate;
 - (d) one senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate;
 - (e) one senator to be nominated by any minority party or independent senator; and
 - (f) one member of the House of Representatives nominated by any minority party or independent member;
- (4) participating members may:
 - (a) be appointed to the committee on the nomination of the Government Whip in the House of Representatives, the Opposition Whip in the House of Representatives, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate or any minority party or independent senator or member of the House of Representatives; and
 - (b) participate in hearings of evidence and deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of members of the committee, but may not vote on any questions before the committee;
- (5) every nomination of a member of the committee be notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (6) the members of the committee hold office as a joint select committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time;
- (7) the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all members have not been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy;

- (8) the committee elect:
 - (a) a Government member as its chair; and
 - (b) a non-Government member as its deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee; and
 - (c) at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee, the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting;
- (9) in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, shall have a casting vote;
- (10) three members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House;
- (11) the committee have power to:
 - (a) appoint subcommittees consisting of three or more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to examine; and
 - (b) appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only;
- (12) two members of a subcommittee constitute the quorum of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House;
- (13) the committee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and such interim recommendations as it may deem fit;
- (14) the provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders; and
- (15) a message be sent to the Senate seeking its concurrence in this resolution.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 20 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Scamps — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 4 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

4 MR NEUMANN: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the hard work of the Government to bring the free trade agreement with the United Kingdom into force on 1 June 2023;
- (2) welcomes the successful resumption of tariff-free sugar exports to the United Kingdom for the first time in 50 years, with the first shipment arriving in London from Queensland on 6 September 2023;

- (3) recognises that as a trading nation Australia's prosperity is linked to open international markets, with trade contributing 29 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product and supporting one in four Australian jobs; and
- (4) notes jobs in export industries pay five per cent above the national average income.
(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Neumann — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

5 MR TED O'BRIEN: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the \$60 billion blackhole in the Government's energy plan, as exposed by independent analysis from a leading Australian energy economist;
 - (b) independent analysis has revealed that more than \$60 billion of mega-energy projects, which the Government is seeking to build by 2030, are unaccounted for in the Government's logic despite their significant impact on the energy prices paid by households;
 - (c) the concerns raised pertain to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's GenCost study which evaluates the levelised cost of electricity for different energy generating technologies;
 - (d) the GenCost study provides the central justification for the Government's radical energy experiment and the repeated mantra that 'renewables are the cheapest form of energy';
 - (e) the GenCost report fails to account for the true cost of various energy generation technologies by excluding the cost of integrating them into the electricity network;
 - (f) that this includes projects such as Snowy 2.0, the Kurri Kurri gas plant, significant integrated system plan transmission projects, Tasmania Battery of the Nation, and the Illawarra gas peaking plant;
 - (g) the \$60 billion price tag excludes household batteries and the distribution network;
 - (h) the Government has wilfully misrepresented the study to blind Australians to the true cost of the Government's plan; and
 - (i) the importance of a total system cost assessment for energy, including integration costs, because this will be paid for in the energy bills of Australian households and businesses; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) immediately stop misrepresenting the price of various energy generation technologies so that a complete assessment can be done to determine the true optimum investment pathway for Australia's energy market; and

- (b) adopt an ‘all of the above’ approach to energy as the Opposition has done, which allows for a mix of different technologies to be considered, including renewables.

(Notice given 14 September 2023.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members’ business time prior to 12 noon.

Speech time limits —

Mr Ted O'Brien — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

Items for Federation Chamber (11 am to 1.30 pm)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Notices

1 MS WARE: To move—That this House:

(1) notes:

- (a) Australia’s energy grid is under imminent threat of blackouts as soon as this summer, as the Government’s energy plan drives the premature closure of baseload energy without any guarantee of like-for-like replacement;
- (b) that the Australian Energy Market Operator has sounded its most dire warning yet, signalling the increased likelihood of significant energy shortfalls as renewable energy investment stalls;
- (c) that the stark warning is a direct result of the Government’s energy policies;
- (d) that at least 80 per cent of baseload energy will shut down by 2035 under this Government’s watch;
- (e) that despite the Minister for Climate Change and Energy repeatedly claiming that he is leading an economic transformation ‘bigger than the Industrial Revolution’ his Government has not asked his department or Treasury to complete any modelling of the energy plan;
- (f) that Australians are already paying some of the most expensive energy bills in the world and now they have been told their lights may not turn on when they need them;
- (g) the Government’s heavy-handed, big government policies continue to smother investments in gas which is vital to keeping the lights on and the prices down;
- (h) that increased demand for gas coupled with decreased investment due to the Government’s anti-gas policies will exacerbate the threat to reliability and the risk that the lights will go out;
- (i) the situation will only get worse if the Government continues with its policy suite and ill-informed pathway to decarbonising the grid;

- (j) the Government's policies are driving the premature closure of baseload power generation yet is failing to replace the capacity as it has promised it would; and
 - (k) the Government is setting up renewable energy for failure, not success, by demanding a renewables-only grid; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) immediately stop its ideological crusade against energy technologies it does not like despite many of these technologies having reliably kept the lights on for decades;
 - (b) adopt an 'all of the above' approach to energy, as the Opposition has done, to ensure a balanced mix of technologies that can power our grid into the future, including renewables but not only renewables;
 - (c) support any state government that seeks to avoid premature closure of coal fired power stations while like-for-like energy generating replacements are built; and
 - (d) reinstate a technology-agnostic capacity mechanism as an insurance method to provide operators with the incentives they need to ensure a reliable synchronous energy supply in the grid.

(Notice given 7 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 35 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms Ware — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 7 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

2 MS TEMPLEMAN: To move—That this House notes that:

- (1) the arts and creativity make a valuable contribution to the quality of life, cultural identity and individual wellbeing in regional communities;
- (2) the arts and creativity can drive economic development by encouraging tourism, supporting small businesses; diversifying employment opportunities and providing skilled jobs;
- (3) to tell the Australian story, regional voices must be heard;
- (4) the new National Cultural Policy, 'Revive', commits new funding to creativity in regional Australia; and
- (5) Revive will provide new investment and new vision for the cultural sector and begin repairing the damage caused by a decade of neglect of the arts by the previous Government.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms Templeman — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

3 MR CHESTER: To move—That this House:

(1) notes that the:

- (a) Stronger Communities Programme delivered on the former Government's commitment to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia;
- (b) programme provided grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 to community organisations and local governments for small scale projects; and
- (c) programme helped fund over 15,000 community-based projects across Australia; and

(2) acknowledges that:

- (a) the Government has failed to provide funding for future rounds of the programme, with no replacement for small-scale projects; and
- (b) community groups, already struggling with the increased cost of living, will have no other option than to fundraise for projects that otherwise could have been funded under the programme.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 45 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Chester — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 9 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

4 MS J RYAN: To move—That this House:

(1) acknowledges that the Government is working for Australia by delivering our commitment to strengthen Medicare and making it easier to see a doctor by:

- (a) tripling the bulk billing incentive, the largest increase to the incentive in the 40-year history of Medicare;
- (b) delivering cheaper medicines by cutting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme co-payment for the first time in 75 years and allowing 60-day prescriptions, saving patients time and money due to less visits to the doctors and the chemist;
- (c) establishing bulk-billing Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across the country where patients receive urgent but not life-threatening care and freeing up overstretched GPs, take pressure off hospitals and improve access to affordable care; and

- (d) growing our health workforce and supporting our trusted health workers to do what they are trained to do by investing in the work force and supporting our local GP practices through the Strengthening Medicare General Practice Grants; and
- (2) notes the mess the health system was left in after a decade of neglect, including under the stewardship of the now Leader of the Opposition who during his time as Minister:
 - (a) tried to tax every single visit Australians made to their GP;
 - (b) tried to jack up the price of medicines of \$5 for each and every script;
 - (c) cut \$50 billion from hospitals;
 - (d) started six years of a Medicare rebate freeze; and
 - (e) was voted the worst Health Minister in 40 years by the Australian Medical Association.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 1.30 pm.

Speech time limits —

Ms J Ryan — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

Items for Federation Chamber (4.45 pm to 7.30 pm)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices – continued

5 DR SCAMPS: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) everyday Australians are experiencing a cost of living crisis; and
 - (b) the Government is investigating ways to respond to the United States of America's (US) Inflation Reduction Act, which is focused on demand-side solutions by the electrification of households, small businesses and transport; and
- (2) calls on the Government to urgently bring forward its plan for responding to the US Inflation Reduction Act, to rapidly decarbonise and to reduce cost of living pressures.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 20 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Scamps — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 4 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

6 DR ANANDA-RAJAH: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the clear message the Australian people sent in May 2022, demanding real action on climate change by electing the current Government;
- (2) further notes the Government has not wasted a day by:
 - (a) increasing Australia's emission reduction targets from 26 per cent to 43 per cent;
 - (b) legislating to bring back the Climate Change Authority;
 - (c) putting net zero in the objects of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Australian Renewable Energy Agency Acts;
 - (d) legislating our \$20 billion Rewiring the Nation Fund;
 - (e) taking substantial steps to create an offshore wind industry in Australia;
 - (f) agreeing to a sensible capacity investment scheme with the states;
 - (g) working with states and territories to put emissions reduction into the National Energy Objectives, and to develop a new National Energy Transformation Partnership;
 - (h) signing the Global Methane Pledge and joining the Climate Change Club and Global Offshore Wind Alliance;
 - (i) reforming the safeguard mechanism so that our biggest industrial emitters are doing their fair share;
 - (j) passing the electric vehicle discount, releasing the National Electric Vehicle Strategy and commencing the rollout of the Driving the Nation charging program;
 - (k) committing \$1.7 billion to the Energy Savings program, providing real financial support to households, businesses, and local governments to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency;
 - (l) signing funding agreements to deliver more than 50 community batteries around Australia;
 - (m) establishing the Net Zero Economy Agency to have a laser-like focus on the economic opportunities for the regions at the centre of the energy transformation; and
 - (n) budgeting \$2 billion to the vital Hydrogen Headstart Program; and
- (3) acknowledges that this is just another way the Government is working for Australia and delivering on the promise of building the better future Australians voted for.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Ananda-Rajah — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

7 MR L O'BRIEN: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that the supply, distribution and sale of illicit tobacco and vapes:
 - (a) is a significant source of revenue for organised crime and criminal gangs connected with the production of illicit drugs, illegal prostitution, supply of illegal firearms and other unlawful activities that cause harm to Australians;
 - (b) deprives the Australian people of approximately \$400 million each year that would be directed toward the national health system;
 - (c) deprives lawful retailers of tobacco products of business; and
 - (d) endangers lives, properties and communities, including the owners and staff of legitimate grocery stores that sell legal tobacco and vapes; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) properly empower, resource and fund the Illicit Tobacco Taskforce to disrupt the supply and distribution of illicit tobacco and vapes; and
 - (b) legislate tough penalties to deter both the demand and supply of illicit tobacco and vapes.

(Notice given 7 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr L O'Brien — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

8 MS LAWRENCE: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that the Government is working to relieve the cost of living pressure for Australians on low and fixed incomes, with around 5.5 million Australians receiving an increase to their income support payments and pensions on 20 September, as a result of:
 - (a) indexation; and/or
 - (b) the boost to income support announced in the May budget as part of the \$14.6 billion cost of living package; and

- (2) notes the changes include:
- (a) increases to the rates of working-age and student payments, including:
 - (i) Jobseeker;
 - (ii) Youth Allowance;
 - (iii) Austudy;
 - (iv) Parenting Payment Partnered;
 - (v) Youth Disability Support Pension; and
 - (vi) ABSTUDY;
 - (b) expanded eligibility for the higher rate of Jobseeker to those aged 55 and over, who are on payment for nine continuous months or more (down from 60);
 - (c) expanded eligibility for Parenting Payment Single, to single principal carers until their youngest child turns 14 (up from 8);
 - (d) increases to the maximum rates of Commonwealth Rent Assistance, the highest in more than 30 years;
 - (e) indexation increases for recipients of the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment and veterans on a service pension;
 - (f) indexation of the income limits for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card recipients; and
 - (g) other supplementary payments including Telephone Allowance and Utilities Allowance are also being indexed.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms Lawrence — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

9 MR PASIN: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that it is now over 130 days since the Government announced a 90-day review into the Infrastructure Investment Pipeline;
- (2) recognises that:
 - (a) investment in infrastructure is essential to reduce congestion, improve productivity and safety; and
 - (b) delaying important infrastructure projects while we await the results of the 90-day review is holding back the productivity of our nation and putting much needed safety upgrades on hold;
- (3) acknowledges that costs continue to rise and delays to the commencement of infrastructure projects as a result of the review will result in considerably higher costs than originally estimated; and
- (4) calls on the Government to complete the review process and unlock the infrastructure investment that our nation desperately needs.

(Notice given 12 September 2023.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 7.30 pm.

Speech time limits —

Mr Pasin — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 9 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

THE HON D. M. DICK MP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

13 September 2023