

1998

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 1998



1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (UNFAIR DISMISSALS) BILL 1998

Mr Reith (Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Reith moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Reith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES CONVENTION BILL 1998

Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Downer moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Downer presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Edwards), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) BILL 1998

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr McGauran (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information

Technology and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telstra Corporation Act 1991*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Fahey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Fahey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr McGauran (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to telecommunications, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Fahey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Fahey presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment 1998;

Telecommunications (Universal Service Levy) Amendment 1998; and

NRS Levy Imposition Amendment 1998.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (UNIVERSAL SERVICE LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Mr Fahey (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telecommunications (Universal Service Levy) Act 1997*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Fahey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SERVICE STANDARDS) BILL 1998

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr McGauran (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act about telecommunications, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Fahey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Fahey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 NRS LEVY IMPOSITION AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Mr Fahey (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *NRS Levy Imposition Act 1998*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Fahey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* in relation to references in Acts to Ministers, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Williams moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1998

Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr M. A. J. Vaile presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 AUSTRALIAN WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation Act 1993*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr M. A. J. Vaile presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TRAINING AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian National Training Authority Act 1992*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Kemp moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Dr Kemp presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

13 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HERITAGE PROTECTION BILL 1998

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), for Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act for the protection of areas and objects of particular significance to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr McGauran moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr McGauran presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

14 PAYMENT PROCESSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS) BILL 1998

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Truss moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS) BILL 1998

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Truss moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

16 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998

Mr McGauran (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr McGauran moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr McGauran presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

17 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CHOICE OF SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) BILL 1998

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to superannuation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hockey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Hockey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

18 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law about income tax, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hockey moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Hockey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

19 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE INCENTIVES BILL 1998

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide incentives for private health insurance, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Wooldridge moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Dr Wooldridge presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills: Private Health Insurance Incentives 1998; Private Health Insurance Incentives Amendment 1998; and Taxation Laws Amendment (Private Health Insurance) 1998.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

20 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE INCENTIVES AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Private Health Insurance Incentives Act 1997*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Wooldridge moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

21 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE) BILL 1998

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to income tax in respect of private health insurance, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Wooldridge moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Ms Macklin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

22 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT) REPEAL AND AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend certain Acts relating to superannuation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Slipper moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

23 COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION BOARD BILL 1998

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish a Board to administer certain legislation relating to superannuation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Slipper moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

24 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT—SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1998

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to enact saving and transitional provisions in consequence of the enactment of certain provisions of the *Superannuation Legislation (Commonwealth Employment) Repeal and Amendment Act 1998*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Slipper moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

25 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT) REPEAL AND AMENDMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend certain Acts in consequence of the enactment of the *Superannuation Legislation (Commonwealth Employment) Repeal and Amendment Act 1998*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Slipper moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr O'Connor), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

26 DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN REGION OPERATIONS CENTRE AT RAAF BASE WILLIAMTOWN, NSW—APPROVAL OF WORK

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Development of the Eastern Region Operations Centre at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

27 REDEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, QLD—APPROVAL OF WORK

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Redevelopment of facilities at RAAF Base Amberley, Qld.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

28 PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—ERECTION OF IDENTIFICATION SIGNS IN FRONT OF OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE—APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House approves the following proposal for work in the Parliamentary Zone which was presented to the House on 10 November 1998, namely: Erection of identification signs in front of Old Parliament House.

Question—put and passed.

29 WOOL INTERNATIONAL AMENDMENT BILL 1998

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 O'Connor who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst supporting the principle of privatisation of Wool International, the House calls on the Government to introduce provisions which will:

- (1) provide for Wool International to continue sales from the wool stockpile at least to accommodate interest payments on stockpile debt, and associated costs of maintaining the selling infrastructure of the stockpile;
- (2) maintain the client base of Wool International and the credibility of both the Government and the industry in dealing consistently with those clients;

- (3) ensure the retention of the core expertise in Wool International to assist any non-government entity constituted to further dispose of the stockpile;
- (4) ensure that the privatisation process will be an open, transparent process along the lines proposed by the ALP in the 1993 Act;
- (5) include details of a mechanism to allow growers to exit from the privatised entity if they do not wish to participate;
- (6) take into account and protect the position of those growers who have borrowed against the security of Wool International entitlements; and
- (7) ensure that all wool buyers will have equal access in a transparent process should the Government decide to sell the entire stockpile in one lot”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the Bill was read a third time.

**30 AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY BILL 1998—
REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General’s message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

**31 AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY (LICENCE
CHARGES) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

**32 AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY
(CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN
COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

33 STATES GRANTS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

34 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, Governor-General's messages recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill and an amendment to the Bill had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to with an amendment (*see item No. 13, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee of 11 November 1998*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the amendment.

Amendment made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

35 FILM LICENSED INVESTMENT COMPANY BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

36 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (FILM LICENSED INVESTMENT COMPANY) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

37 CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

38 STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

39 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 1, 11 November 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate approving, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the proposal by the National Capital Authority to erect identification signs in front of Old Parliament House.

40 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 2, 11 November 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate concerning the Government's decision to cut jobs from Centrelink.

Ordered—That consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

41 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—DATA-MATCHING PROGRAM (ASSISTANCE AND TAX) AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Message No. 3, 11 November 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Data-matching Program (Assistance and Tax) Act 1990*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

42 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

43 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

44 SPEAKER'S PANEL

The following warrant nominating a member of the Speaker's panel, pursuant to standing order 18, was laid on the Table:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 18, I nominate Ian Raymond Causley to be a member of the Speaker's panel to assist the Chair when requested to do so by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker.

Given under my hand on 12 November 1998.

NEIL ANDREW
Speaker

45 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 100th Inter-Parliamentary conference, Moscow, 6 to 12 September 1998—Report, November 1998.

46 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1997-98—
Performance audits—

No. 13—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program: Department of Health and Aged Care.

No. 14—Prescribed payments system: Australian Taxation Office.

Severally ordered to be printed.

47 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

APEC—Australia's Individual Action Plan: Trade equals jobs—1998.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Australian Securities and Investments Commission—Report for 1997-98.

Finance—

Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for July 1998.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during July 1998.

National Procurement Board—Final report, for period 1 July 1997 to 31 March 1998.

Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act—Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act—Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority—Report for 1997-98.

48 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Australian Securities and Investments Commission—Report for 1997-98.

Finance—

Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for July 1998.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during July 1998.

Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act—Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of each debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

49 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR 23 NOVEMBER 1998

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business for the sitting on Monday, 23 November 1998, being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

1. Notices and orders of the day, government business.
2. Members' statements (at approximately 1.45 p.m.).
3. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.).
4. Presentation of petitions.
5. Grievance debate.
6. Notices and orders of the day, government business.

Question—put and passed.

50 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday, 23 November 1998, at 12.30 p.m., unless the Speaker or, in the event of the Speaker being unavailable, the Deputy Speaker, fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

51 MEMBERS' TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE CLAIMS—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement concerning the internal audit of Members' travelling allowance claims by KPMG.

The Speaker informed the House that KPMG had recommended no further action be taken on claims and that the Clerk of the House had accepted the recommendation.

52 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The implications of the GST for the Commonwealth's future role in the provision of government services".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

53 AGED CARE AMENDMENT (ACCREDITATION AGENCY) BILL 1998

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs B. K. Bishop moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mrs B. K. Bishop presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Lee), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

54 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Melham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

55 ADJOURNMENT

Mrs Stone (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 6 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday, 23 November 1998, at 12.30 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 12 November 1998:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statement relating to delay in furnishing reports within specified period—Sydney Airports Corporation Limited and Essendon Airport Limited—Statements of Corporate Intent.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—

Civil Aviation Orders—Parts 20, 82—Amendments 31 October 1998.

Exemption 1998 No. CASA 41.

International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 252.

National Health Act—Determination 1998 No. HIG 8.

Patents Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 241.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Determination 1998 No. Imo/No. 2.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Scott.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives