

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 19

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 1999



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 TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM BILL 1999**

Mr Moore (Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act about the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Investment Program, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Moore presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**3 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999**

Mr Moore (Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Moore presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**4 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (SOFTWARE DEPRECIATION) BILL 1999**

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, 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 Melham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### **5 AIRPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), for Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Airports Act 1996*, and for other 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 Melham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### **6 YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSOLIDATION BILL 1999**

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), for Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend various Acts in relation to youth allowance and austudy payment, 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 Melham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### **7 FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999**

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), for Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991*, 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 Horne), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**8 YEAR 2000 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE BILL 1999**

Mr McGauran (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to encourage the voluntary disclosure and exchange of information about year 2000 computer problems and remediation efforts, and for other 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 Horne), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**9 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HERITAGE PROTECTION 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.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr K. J. Andrews, in the Chair)—

AYES, 70

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr Schultz
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott
Ms Bailey	Mr Fischer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Baird	Mr Forrest*	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mrs May	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cameron	Mrs Hull	Mr Neville	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Nugent	Dr Washer
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Prosser	Mr Williams
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Pyne	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Downer	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Elson	Mr Lawler	Mr St Clair	

## NOES, 62

Mr Adams	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Rudd
Mr Albanese	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr Andren	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sciacca
Mr Bevis	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Brereton	Ms Hoare	Mr Melham	Mr Sidebottom
Ms Burke	Mr Hollis	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mr Cox	Mr Horne	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Mr Crean	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Danby	Mr Jenkins	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Lee	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Ripoll	
Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Ms Roxon	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

#### 10 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1998-99

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.

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.

#### 11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Papers*

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) presented the following papers:

Health Insurance Commission—MRI Investigation—Copies of—

*Health Insurance Act 1973*—Sections 130 to 130A.

Part of question time brief.

Questions without notice continued.

#### 12 MEMBER ORDERED TO WITHDRAW

At 3.45 p.m. the Member for Burke (Mr O'Keefe) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for 1 hour for continuing to interject

after a warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

**13 PAPER**

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Committee reports—Schedule of outstanding Government responses to reports of House of Representatives and joint committees, incorporating reports tabled and details of Government responses made in the period 2 July 1998 to 10 February 1999, 10 February 1999.

**14 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration—  
Statement for November 1998.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during November 1998.

Productivity Commission—Report—No. 1—The Australian Black Coal Industry—Volumes 1 and 2.

States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act—Report on financial assistance granted to each State in respect of 1997.

**15 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

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

Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration—  
Statement for November 1998.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during November 1998.

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

**16 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—LONGFORD GAS DISASTER**

The House was informed that Mr K. J. Thomson had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to spend more than \$7.3 million of the \$100 million promised to Victorians on election eve following the Longford gas disaster”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr K. J. Thomson addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

*Paper*

Ms Bailey, by leave, presented the following paper:

Victoria emergency fund—Copy of press release by Mr Howard (Prime Minister), 2 October 1998.

Discussion concluded.

**17 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had returned the Bill for further consideration (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Debate resumed on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr McClelland, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (12) as circulated, together.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**18 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) CHARGES BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had returned the Bill for further consideration (*see item No. 4, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

**19 NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT (UTILITY METERS) 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 Mrs Stone (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**20 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT 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 Mrs Stone (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**21 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1998-99**

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.

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**22 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 5.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 6 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 11 February 1999:

Migration Act—Statements under section—  
345 (2).  
351 (35).

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensation 1999 No. 1.

Taxation Administration Act—Ruling 1999 Nos. PR 3, PR 4.

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act—Determination under paragraph 15 1999 No. 1.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mrs Crosio, Mr Edwards, Mrs Gallus, Ms Kernot, Mr Somlyay, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Truss.

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 19

**MAIN COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 1999



1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

**2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

**3 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES)  
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.

Ms Bailey moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed.

**4 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES)  
CHARGES 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—

Ms Bailey moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed.

**5 NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT (UTILITY METERS) 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.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**6 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION 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.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 12.19 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 12.30 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

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*Adjournment negatived*

It being 12.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Committee do now adjourn.

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Debate continued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**7 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

At 1.14 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee.

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**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee