

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 47

TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 1999

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (MR A. W. G. LUCK)**

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 9 June 1999, of Mr Aubrey William George Luck, a Member of this House for the Division of Darwin from 1951 to 1955 and for the Division of Braddon from 1955 to 1958.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

**3 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**4 MEMBER ORDERED TO WITHDRAW**

At 3.24 p.m. the Member for Bruce (Mr Griffin) 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.

**5 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS**

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1998-99—Performance audits—

No. 47—Energy efficiency in Commonwealth operations: Department of Industry, Science and Resources—Australian Greenhouse Office.

No. 48—Phase 2 of the sales of the Federal airports.

Severally ordered to be printed.

**6 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Australian Law Reform Commission—Report No. 87—Confiscation that counts: A review of the *Proceeds of Crime Act 1987*.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—First Quarterly Report of the Chief Executive Officer, for period 5 February to 31 March 1999.

Banking, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the 1993-94 annual reports of the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Insurance and Superannuation Commission—Government response.

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration—Statement for April 1999.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during April 1999.

Financial Institutions and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the 1995-96 annual reports of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Australian Securities Commission and the Insurance and Superannuation Commission—Government response.

National Health and Medical Research Council—Grants 1999.

Report for 1998.

Nuclear Safety Bureau—Reports for periods—

NSB.QRM 44, 1 July to 30 September 1998.

NSB.QRM 45, 1 October 1998 to 4 February 1999.

#### 7 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Australian Law Reform Commission—Report No. 87—Confiscation that counts: A review of the *Proceeds of Crime Act 1987*.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—First Quarterly Report of the Chief Executive Officer, for period 5 February to 31 March 1999.

Banking, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the 1993-94 annual reports of the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Insurance and Superannuation Commission—Government response.

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration—Statement for April 1999.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during April 1999.

Financial Institutions and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the 1995-96 annual reports of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Australian Securities Commission and the Insurance and Superannuation Commission—Government response.

Nuclear Safety Bureau—Reports for periods—

NSB.QRM 44, 1 July to 30 September 1998.

NSB.QRM 45, 1 October 1998 to 4 February 1999.

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

**8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—WORKERS’ PAY AND ENTITLEMENTS**

The House was informed that Mr Bevis had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to provide adequate protection for workers’ pay and other entitlements where companies have become insolvent”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Bevis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**9 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members’ business on Monday, 28 June 1999.

**10 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Amendment 1999;

Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review) 1999; and

Statute Stocktake 1999.

Question—put and passed.

**11 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES**

Ordered—That notices Nos. 1 and 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**12 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FAMILY ASSISTANCE) (ADMINISTRATION) BILL 1999**

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 Swan who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for:

- (1) persisting with the proposal to impose a regressive and unfair tax on families and individuals in a way that has become unworkable, increasing the costs of having children, and widening inequality in society;
- (2) attempting to administer family payments in such a way as to deny access by families to those payments by incorporating ‘virtual offices’ into the already gridlocked Centrelink structure; and
- (3) attempting to wind back the rights of appeal of citizens in receipt of social security payments by placing inappropriate time restrictions on access to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—  
put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Mossfield, in the Chair)—

AYES, 74

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

NOES, 64

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

\* Tellers

*Pairs*

Mr Howard                      Mr Beazley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 74, 4 June 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), the Bill was read a third time.

**13 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FAMILY ASSISTANCE) (CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED MEASURES) BILL (NO. 2) 1999**

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—

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

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 75, 31 May 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), the Bill was read a third time.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) BILL 1998**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

21 June 1999—Message No. 98—Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SERVICE STANDARDS) BILL 1998**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

21 June 1999—Message No. 99—Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

21 June 1999—Message No. 100—Telecommunications Legislation Amendment 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TELECOMMUNICATIONS (UNIVERSAL SERVICE LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL 1998**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

21 June 1999—Message No. 101—Telecommunications (Universal Service Levy) Amendment 1998.

Ordered—That the amendment be considered at the next sitting.

**18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

21 June 1999—Message No. 102—NRS Levy Imposition Amendment 1998.

**19 SOCIAL SECURITY (FAMILY ALLOWANCE AND RELATED MATTERS) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

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 Swan who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for:

- (1) claiming to have provided sufficient compensation to families for money that was taken from them as a result of the Youth Allowance; and
- (2) failing to abide by its commitment to provide families adversely affected by the Youth Allowance with adequate compensation”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Quick, in the Chair)—

AYES, 76

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

NOES, 65

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

\* Tellers

*Pairs*

Mr Howard                      Mr Beazley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 76, 10 June 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), the Bill was read a third time.

**20 AGED CARE AMENDMENT (OMNIBUS) BILL 1999**

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.

Debate adjourned (Mr Tanner), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**21 DIESEL AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS GRANTS SCHEME BILL 1999**

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for grants for use of diesel fuels and alternative fuels in road transport, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**22 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE AMENDMENT (DIESEL FUEL REBATE SCHEME) BILL 1999**

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901* and the *Excise Act 1901*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**23 AGED CARE AMENDMENT (OMNIBUS) BILL 1999**

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.



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

**24 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Anthony (Parliamentary Secretary (Trade)) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 June 1999:

Airports Act—Determination pursuant to section 192—Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 28 April 1999.

Health Insurance Act—Instrument 1999—Accredited Pathology Laboratories (Approval) Principles (No. 1).

Migration Act—General Directions under section 499, 1999 Nos. 8, 17.

National Health Act—Determination 1999 No. IHS 6.

Navigation Act—Marine Orders 1999 Nos. 13, 14.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—Notices 1999 Nos. 5, 6, 7.

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

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Katter and Dr Lawrence.

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

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

No. 47

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 1999

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1 The Main Committee met at 4.30 p.m.

2 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1999-2000—BUDGET DEBATE**

The order of the day having been read for the further consideration in detail of the Bill—

*Consideration in detail*

Schedule—

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, \$394 718 000—

Department of the Environment and Heritage, \$593 270 000—

together further debated and agreed to.

Ordered—That the order for consideration of the proposed expenditures agreed to by the Main Committee on 21 June 1999 be varied by considering the proposed expenditures for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Finance and Administration together.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Transport and Regional Services, \$374 483 000—debated.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 5.52 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 6.05 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

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Debate continued.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 6.28 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 8 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

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Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Attorney-General's Department, \$1 319 396 000—debated and agreed to.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 8.32 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 8.45 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

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Proposed expenditure—Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, \$2 126 581 000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, \$527 972 000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, \$1 753 131 000—Debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Defence, \$14 277 978 000—

Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$367 421 000—

together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Industry, Science and Resources, \$1 714 042 000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, \$1 230 895 000—

Department of the Treasury, \$2 069 141 000—

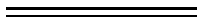
Department of Finance and Administration, \$794 458 000—

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

**3 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), the Main Committee adjourned at 10.14 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

**B. C. WRIGHT**

Clerk of the Main Committee