

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 76

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 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 **MEMBER FOR DOBELL—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker made a statement concerning comments made yesterday by the Member for Dobell in responding to an order of the House. The Speaker stated that while the comments may have been contemptuous of the House, they did not constitute a prima facie case of contempt of the House.

The Speaker stated that the House might be best advised to consult its own dignity and not take any further action in the matter.

3 **AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 1999 [NO. 2]**

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australia New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991*, and for related purposes.

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

4 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 10) 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 DISCHARGE OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), pursuant to notice, moved—That the following orders of the day, government business, be discharged:

Tradex Scheme Bill 1999: Second reading—Resumption of debate;

Tradex Duty Imposition Bill 1999: Second reading—Resumption of debate; and
Customs Tariff Amendment (Tradex) Bill 1999: Second reading—Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

6 TRADEX SCHEME BILL 1999 [NO. 2]

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) presented a Bill for an Act to establish a scheme, to be known as the Tradex Scheme, for the importation, without payment of duties of customs or other taxes, of goods that are to be subsequently exported, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Entsch presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Tradex Scheme 1999 [No. 2];
Tradex Duty Imposition (General) 1999;
Tradex Duty Imposition (Customs) 1999; and
Tradex Duty Imposition (Excise) 1999.

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

7 TRADEX DUTY IMPOSITION (GENERAL) BILL 1999

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) presented a Bill for an Act to impose the tax payable under section 21 of the *Tradex Scheme Act 1999*, so far as that tax is neither a duty of customs nor a duty of excise.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

8 TRADEX DUTY IMPOSITION (CUSTOMS) BILL 1999

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) presented a Bill for an Act to impose the tax payable under section 21 of the *Tradex Scheme Act 1999*, so far as that tax is a duty of customs.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

9 TRADEX DUTY IMPOSITION (EXCISE) BILL 1999

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) presented a Bill for an Act to impose the tax payable under section 21 of the *Tradex Scheme Act 1999*, so far as that tax is a duty of excise.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

10 REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS BILL 1998—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Government amendment be agreed to—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation) presented reasons, which were circulated, and are as follows:

Reasons of the House of Representatives for disagreeing to the amendments of the Senate

Senate Amendment Nos. 1-3

The Amendments propose that the objects of the Act are to:

- ensure that Regional Forest Agreements (“RFAs”) are consistent with the National Forest Policy Statement 1992 (as assessed against certain criteria); and
- establish a Wood and Paper Industry Council.

Further, the proposed definition of “RFA or Regional Forest Agreement” requires that the agreement “has regard to”:

- the objects of the Act; and
- certain assessments relevant to the region.

The House of Representatives does not accept the Amendments as:

- the proposed criteria against which an RFA is assessed to determine its consistency with the National Forest Policy Statement are either beyond the scope of an RFA, too vague or better dealt with through the definition of “RFA or Regional Forest Agreement” contained in the original Bill; and
- it is not possible for RFAs entered into prior to the commencement of the Bill to have “regard to” the proposed objects.

Senate Amendment Nos. 4 and 6

These Amendments require any RFA made or sought to be made after 1 March 1999 to successfully undergo public and parliamentary scrutiny prior to it being recognised as an RFA under the Bill.

The Amendments have a number of defects. In relation to the 1 March 1999 “cut-off”, there is no objective basis on which such a differentiation can be justified. The only difference appears to be a political one, not one that goes to the substance of the agreement or to the process undertaken in its development.

In relation to the proposed provisions requiring public scrutiny:

- under existing Commonwealth legislation, the Commonwealth is already required to meet all its obligations before it agrees to enter into any RFA. Consequently, the Minister for the Environment is always closely involved in the RFA process; and
- given the extensive public consultation that has taken place in relation to all RFAs, there is no reason to suggest that notification of the Commonwealth’s intention to enter into an RFA or the publishing of a draft RFA will serve any purpose. This is particularly so as there is no provision in the proposed amendment for the signing of the RFA to be delayed in any way to enable further public input as a result of the notification by the *Gazette*.

In relation to the proposed provisions detailing the parliamentary scrutiny process:

- legal advice from the Office of General Council concludes that the inclusion of these proposed Amendments would contravene section 99 of the Constitution;
- in addition, the proposed Amendments would undermine and politicise the RFA process to the extent that it may be difficult to sign RFAs at all; and
- if there is a concern that RFA requirements are not being complied with, it is open to Parliament to amend or repeal the Bill. This requires both Houses to act, not just one House as proposed in the Amendments.

Senate Amendment No. 5

The Amendment proposes that the definition of “RFA or Regional Forest Agreement” include a requirement that the agreement provides for structural adjustment packages, including relocation and retraining for affected workers and their families. The House of Representatives does not accept the Amendment as there is no benchmark an RFA would have to meet to qualify as “providing for” such structural adjustment packages. Taking a line through RFAs entered into to date, there is no single approach taken to this issue. This is due to the fact that:

- the impact of an RFA on industry structure in each region is different, requiring different approaches to structural adjustment (for example, there is no structural adjustment package for Tasmania, although there is a package related to industry development initiatives); and

- in States with multiple RFAs (Victoria and New South Wales), structural adjustment packages are constructed on a State-wide basis, so there is likely to be only passing reference to them in individual RFAs.

The proposed Amendment will only serve to create confusion.

Senate Amendment No. 7

The Amendment proposes that the Minister must cause to be established a comprehensive and publicly available national forest database to ensure that decision-making and management of timber are based on best available information. The House of Representatives does not accept the Amendment because it is too vague and will invite legal debate on what the terms “comprehensive”, “national forest database” and “best available information” mean.

The Commonwealth already publicly provides a State of the Forest Report. Also the question of what is the appropriate level and scope of data for the forest and wood products sector is currently under consideration by all stakeholders through the Action Agenda process.

Senate Amendment No. 8

The Amendment proposes to qualify exemptions provided to RFA forestry operations under the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983*. It does so by incorporating qualifications contained in certain RFA provisions contained in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (“the EPBC Act”). The House of Representatives does not accept that this proposed amendment is necessary, given:

- the RFA provisions in the EP&BC Act remove the application of new environmental assessment and approval requirements under that Act while an RFA is in force; and
- transitional and savings provisions contained in the *Environmental Reform (Consequential Provisions) Act 1999* provide for the continuation of relevant existing environmental legislation, which would otherwise be replaced by the EP&BC Act, for the purposes of developing and finalising RFAs for specified regions.

This is consistent with the Council of Australian Governments Agreement in 1997 in relation to forestry matters which requires that any arrangements entered into as part of an RFA are not affected by these new environmental processes. The proposed Amendment attempts to connect the two processes without any substantive reason for so doing.

Senate Amendment No. 9

The Amendment provides that nothing in the Act prevents the parties agreeing to amend an RFA provided they have consulted “interested stakeholders” about the amendment. The House of Representatives does not accept this Amendment on the following grounds:

- it is unnecessary as there is nothing in the Bill which could be construed as preventing the amendment of an RFA by the parties;

- the Amendment does not constrain the parties to amending the RFA in accordance with the provisions contained in the RFA itself; and
- the requirement to first consult with “interested stakeholders” is vague and has the potential to be extremely wide, thereby making compliance with this term difficult.

Senate Amendment Nos. 10-13

The Amendments propose to alter the compensation clause in the Bill so that the Commonwealth is liable to pay any compensation “in relation to actual losses arising from the loss of legally exercisable rights” that it is required to pay to a State in accordance with compensation provisions of an RFA “for a breach, amendment or termination of an RFA”. The House of Representatives opposes these Amendments on the grounds they:

- are confused;
- will likely have no effect as the liability to pay compensation continues to arise out of the terms of the RFA itself; and
- are unclear as to what the term “losses arising from the loss of legally exercisable rights” actually means.

Senate Amendment Nos. 14 and 15

The Amendments propose that:

- publication in the *Gazette* of a notice about the commencement of an RFA should include the full text of the RFA; and
- publication in the *Gazette* of a notice about the commencement or cessation of an RFA also includes reference to an amendment to an existing RFA.

The House of Representatives does not accept these Amendments as sufficient details of each RFA are in the public domain, given

- copies of completed RFAs are provided on request to interested persons; and
- copies of completed RFAs are available on Internet websites.

On the motion of Mr Tuckey, the reasons were adopted.

Mr Tuckey moved—That in the message returning the Bill to the Senate, the Senate be requested to reconsider the Bill in respect of the amendment made by the House of Representatives to the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

11 HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT (DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES) 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 132, 1 July 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 Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), the Bill was read a third time.

12 INTERNATIONAL TAX AGREEMENTS 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), the Bill was read a third time.

13 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE 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 Ms Macklin 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 expresses its concern about the nature of the bill and its contribution to the stripping back of Government support for Australian women and the community organisations that represent them, in particular:

- (1) the weakening of industrial relations legislation and organisations that aim to improve women’s employment prospects and workplace treatment, particularly through the Workplace Relations Act and reductions in the power of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission;
- (2) the weakening of organisations that exist to provide women with suitable avenues of redress for discrimination, including the Affirmative Action Agency and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission;
- (3) failure to respond to major reports, particularly the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report, *Pregnant and Productive*;
- (4) failure to send appropriate representation to international forums discussing women’s policy, particularly to the recent International Labour Organisation’s conference on maternity leave provisions;
- (5) the weakening of the role of government organisations that aim to improve the sensitivity of government policies to women, particularly the Office of the Status of Women;
- (6) the de-funding of community groups which represent women, including the Girl Guides, the Women’s Electoral Lobby, the Older Women’s Network and the Catholic Women’s League;
- (7) failure to consult with a wide range of women’s organisations, particularly through the reduction in the numbers now attending the national round table consultations;

- (8) cuts to child care, education and health-services which women depend upon to be able to work, to raise a family and to improve their living standards;
- (9) the development of taxation policies which do not deliver an equal benefit to women and which redistribute more of the burden of taxation onto women through the Goods and Services Tax; and
- (10) the de-funding of the social safety net by stealth which impacts significantly on women as women are more dependent upon social security and the Government's refusal to release a secret welfare discussion paper containing plans to cut payments to sole parents and people with disabilities".

Debate continued.

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.

14 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.21 p.m. the Member for Rankin (Dr Emerson) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for disorderly behaviour, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.31 p.m. the Member for Lalor (Ms Gillard) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for disorderly behaviour, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs—Motion of censure

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved—That this House censures the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs for misleading the Parliament and the Australian people on the Government's intentions regarding higher education, and for advancing a policy which would create severe financial hardship for the vast majority of students and their families, and which would eliminate educational opportunities for many other Australians.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 61

Mr Adams

Ms Gerick

Mr McClelland

Mr Rudd

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

NOES, 73

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

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Barresi	Mrs Crosio
Mrs Gallus	Ms O'Byrne
Mr Prosser	Ms Burke
Mr Somlyay	Mr McLeay

And so it was negatived.

 Questions without notice concluded.

15 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 12 of 1999-2000—Financial control and administration audit—Management of contracted business support processes.

Ordered to be printed.

16 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Report for 1998-99.

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 1998-99.

Australia-Japan Foundation—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Film Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Film Finance Corporation Limited—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Film, Television and Radio School—Report for 1998-99.

Comcare Australia—Report for 1998-99.

Federal Airports Corporation—Report for 1998-99.

National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme—Report for 1998-99.

National Library of Australia—Report for 1998-99.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Northern Land Council—Report for 1998-99.

Productivity Commission—Report No. 8—Impact of Competition Policy Reforms on Rural and Regional Australia: Inquiry Report, 8 September 1999.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission—Report for 1998-99.

ScreenSound Australia—Review for 1998-99.

17 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Comcare Australia—Report for 1998-99.

National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme—Report for 1998-99.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission—Report for 1998-99.

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

18 PAPER

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:

Petition not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—Treaty between the Australian Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Mr Albanese, 478 petitioners).

19 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNIVERSITIES

The House was informed that Mr Lee had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The urgent need for the Government to address problems in universities such as high student:staff ratios, outdated technology and gaps in key areas of professional preparation”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee rising to address the House—

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

20 PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had indicated that he wished to resign from the Committee of Privileges.

Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), by leave, moved—That Mr McLeay be discharged from the Committee of Privileges.

Question—put and passed.

21 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 14 October 1999, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 225—Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Border Interception) 1999.

No. 226—Customs Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1999.

No. 227—Fisheries Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1999.

22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE BILL 1999

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

14 October 1999—Message No. 221—Parliamentary Service 1999.

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

23 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1999

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

14 October 1999—Message No. 222—Public Service 1999.

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

24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL) AMENDMENT BILL 1999

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

14 October 1999—Message No. 223—Public Employment (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment 1999.

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

25 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CUSTOMS (TARIFF CONCESSION SYSTEM VALIDATIONS) BILL 1999

Message No. 224, 14 October 1999, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to validate certain decisions made, and acts and things done, under Part XVA of the *Customs Act 1901*.

Bill read a first time.

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

26 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—PROPOSED ABC SYDNEY ACCOMMODATION PROJECT, ULTIMO, NSW

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*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Proposed ABC Sydney Accommodation Project, Ultimo, NSW.

Question—put and passed.

27 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Ms Macklin (see item No. 13, page 977)*—

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Dr Stone—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

28 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

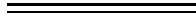
Paper

Ms Hoare, by leave, presented the following paper:

Westlakes Community Care Inc.—Nomination for Mrs Ros Elias for the Commonwealth Recognition Awards for Senior Australians.

Question—put and passed.

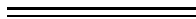
And then the House, at 6 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Barresi, Ms Burke*, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Gallus, Mr Katter, Mr McLeay, Ms O'Byrne, Mr Prosser* and Mr Somlyay.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 76

MAIN COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1999



1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

**3 STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES—
REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Lloyd—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 20 September 1999*), viz.:

Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources—Report—Effect of Certain Public Policy Changes in Australia's R & D—Final report, August 1999—

Debate resumed.

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

**4 STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
AFFAIRS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Lieberman—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 30 August 1999*), viz.:

Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs—Report—Review of Reeves Report on Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—Final report, August 1999—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Dr Stone—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 ADJOURNMENT

Dr Stone (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage) moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

At 12.02 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until Wednesday, 20 October 1999, at 9.40 a.m.



B. C. WRIGHT

Clerk of the Main Committee