

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 172

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2001



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 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2001**

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Tariff Act 1921*, 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 and the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2001.

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

**3 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2001**

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

**4 SYDNEY AIRPORT DEMAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2001**

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 *Sydney Airport Demand Management 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 Swan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**5 THERAPEUTIC GOODS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 2000**

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 Griffin 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) the systematic weakening of Australia’s processes for the listing of prescription and low risk medicines including recent changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and proposed changes to the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*; and
- (2) compromising the independence of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the Board of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority”.

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 Brough (Minister for Employment Services), the Bill was read a third time.

**6 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (INTEGRITY OF REGIONAL MIGRATION SCHEMES) BILL 2000**

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 M. J. Evans), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**7 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (EXCISE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2000**

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 Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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) failing to listen to the community concerning the GST impact on excise levels;

- (2) opposing Labor's private member's bill giving a fuel excise cut to motorists yet allowing a Government backbencher to introduce his own private member's bill that would tear up the Intergovernmental Agreement signed with the States;
- (3) belatedly reducing only a portion of its GST fuel excise windfall merely because it is in a state of panic because of the upcoming Ryan by-election, and
- (4) its poor administration of the excise regime".

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock—Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL BILL 2000**

Message No. 568, 7 March 2001, from the Senate was reported returning the Australian Research Council Bill 2000 and acquainting the House that the Senate does not insist on its original amendments Nos 3, 10 and 11 and its amendments Nos 1 to 5 made in place of its original amendments Nos 1, 8 and 9, disagreed to by the House; again insists on its original amendments Nos 4 to 7 disagreed to by the House; and has made amendments in place of its replacement amendment No. 1 and its original amendment No. 3 and desires the reconsideration of the Bill by the House in respect of its original amendments Nos 4 to 7; and requests the concurrence of the House in the amendments made by the Senate in place of its replacement amendment No. 1 and its original amendment No. 3.

Ordered—That the message be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs) the original Senate amendments Nos 4 to 7 and the amendments made by the Senate in place of its replacement amendment No. 1 and its original amendment No. 3 were agreed to, after debate.

**9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 2000**

Message No. 569, 7 March 2001, from the Senate was reported returning the Australian Research Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2000 and acquainting the House that the Senate again insists on its amendments Nos 1 to 3 disagreed to by the House and has made an amendment in place of its amendment No. 4 and desires the reconsideration of the Bill by the House in respect of its amendments Nos 1 to 3; and requests the concurrence of the House in the amendment made by the Senate in place of its amendment No. 4.

Ordered—That the message be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs) Senate amendments Nos 1 to 3 and the amendment made by the Senate in place of its amendment No. 4 were agreed to, after debate.

**10 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr Jenkins, by leave, presented the following paper:

Final issue of The Mail—Copy of an article in *Nillumbik Mail*, 7 March 2001.

Questions without notice continued.

**11 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report of the Chief Executive Officer for period 1 October to 31 December 2000.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Australian Government loan to Papua New Guinea—Report—Government response.

Primary Industries, Resources and Rural and Regional Affairs—Standing Committee—Managing Commonwealth fisheries: The last frontier—Report—Government response.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—31st—Three treaties tabled on 7 March 2000—Government response, March 2001.

**12 PAPER**

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

Petition not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—Ban anti-personnel landmines in Sri Lanka (Mr Downer, 10,400 petitioners).

**13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PUBLIC POLICY**

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 Government’s out-of-touch and mean-spirited approach to public policy”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**14 COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP**

The House was informed that the Government Whip had received advice that two Members wished to resign their membership of certain committees.

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) Mrs Gallus (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs) be discharged from the Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage; and the Joint Standing Committee on Migration; and

- (2) Mr I. E. Macfarlane (Minister for Small Business) be discharged from the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources; Primary Industries and Regional Services; and the Library Committee.

Question—put and passed.

**15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

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

8 March 2001—Message No. 571—Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (New Zealand Citizens) 2001.

**16 PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE—REPORTS**

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following papers:

Committee of Privileges—Applications for the publication of responses to references made in the House of Representatives from—

Ms Nahid Atalla, March 2001.

Mrs Dawn Colston, March 2001.

Severally ordered to be printed.

**17 CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Mr Sercombe presented the following papers:

Corporations and Securities—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Aspects of the regulation of proprietary companies—

Report, March 2001.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Sercombe, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

**18 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following report:

Committee of Members' Interests—Report on the operations of the Committee for 2000.

Ordered to be printed.

**19 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—24TH REPORT**

Mr Lieberman (Chair) presented the following paper:

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 24TH REPORT**

The Publications Committee reports that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Committee, having considered documents presented to Parliament since 8 February 2001, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Electoral Commission—2000 redistribution of Northern Territory into Electoral Divisions.

Commonwealth Grants Commission—State revenue sharing relativities—Report 2001 update.

Commissioner of Taxation—Data-matching program—ATO's interaction with the program—Report for 1999-2000.

Copyright Agency Limited—Report for 1999-2000.

Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation—Reconciliation Australia's Challenge—Final report of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation to the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Parliament, December 2000.

Defence 2000—Our future defence force—White paper, December 2000.

National Environment Protection Council—Report for 1999-2000.

National Office of Local Government—Report for 1999-2000.

Natural Heritage Trust—Report for 1999-2000.

LOU LIEBERMAN

Chair

8 March 2001

On the motion of Mr Lieberman, by leave, the report was agreed to.

**20 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (EXCISE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2000**

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 Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (see item 7, page 2168)—*

Debate resumed.

Mr Murphy was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

**21 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2000**

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

8 March 2001—Message No. 570—Trade Practices Amendment (No. 1) 2000.

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

**22 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Messages from the Senate, 8 March 2001, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 572—Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2000.

No. 573—Aircraft Noise Levy Collection Amendment 2001.

**23 RETIREMENT OF MR D M PIPER, CLERK ASSISTANT (TABLE) AND MR F W BRADLEY, JOINT HOUSE DEPARTMENT**

The Speaker informed the House of the forthcoming retirement of Mr D M Piper, Clerk Assistant (Table), paid tribute to Mr Piper's distinguished contribution to the Parliament and wished him and his family well in his retirement. The Speaker also advised the House of the retirement on 16 February of Mr F W Bradley from the Joint House Department.

Mr Ronaldson associated himself with the remarks of the Speaker.

---

*Adjournment negatived*

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

Question—put and negatived.

---

Mr McLeay, Mr Reith (Leader of the House) and Mr Nehl (Deputy Speaker) also associated themselves with the remarks of the Speaker.

**24 ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs Gallus (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs) 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, 26 March 2001, at 12.30 p.m.

---

---

**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 March 2001:

Defence Act—Determination under section 52—2001 No. 1.

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Advice of decisions under paragraph 18(a), 7 March 2001.

---

---

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bevis, Mr Emerson, Mr Fahey\*, Mr Fitzgibbon, Ms O'Byrne\*, Ms Plibersek\*, Mr Sciacca, Mr Slipper, Mr A. P. Thomson and Mr Truss.

\* On leave

---

---

**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-1999-2000-2001

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

No. 172

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

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2001

---

---

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

**2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

**3 DEFENCE 2000—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 6 December 2000*), viz.:

Defence 2000—Paper and Ministerial Statement—

Debate resumed.

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

**4 ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs Elson moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

At 12.07 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee.

---

---

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