

2002

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 13

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2002

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 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2002

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

3 THERAPEUTIC GOODS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2002

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 Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), the Bill was read a third time.

4 THERAPEUTIC GOODS AMENDMENT (MEDICAL DEVICES) BILL 2002

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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), the Bill was read a third time.

5 THERAPEUTIC GOODS (CHARGES) AMENDMENT BILL 2002

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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), the Bill was read a third time.

6 VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (GOLD CARD EXTENSION) BILL 2002

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.

Mr Windsor moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while supporting the Bill, the House is of the opinion that the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) should extend full repatriation health entitlement (Gold Card) to Australian veterans who are aged 70 years or over, irrespective of whether those veterans have been in danger from hostile forces of the enemy as the current legislation and proposed amendment Bill demands”.

Debate continued.

Mr Katter 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 a later hour this day.

7 COMMITTEES—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), by leave, moved—That Members be appointed as members of certain committees in accordance with the following schedule:

COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP
STANDING	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Mr Danby, Mrs Draper, Mr Haase, Ms Hoare, Mrs Hull, Dr Lawrence, Mr Lloyd, Mr Snowdon, Mr Tollner, Mr Wakelin.
Ageing	Mr Albanese, Ms Gambaro, Ms Hall, Mr Hartsuyker, Mr Hunt, Mrs May, Mr Mossfield, Mr Quick, Mr A. D. H. Smith, Dr Southcott.
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Mr Adams, Mrs Elson, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Mrs Ley, Mr Schultz, Mr Secker, Mr Sidebottom, Mr Windsor, Mr Zahra.
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	Mr Baldwin, Mr Ciobo, Ms Grierson, Mr Hatton, Mr Johnson, Mrs May, Mr Pearce, Mr Pyne, Mr Sercombe, Mr Tanner.
Economics, Finance and Public Administration	Mr Albanese, Ms Burke, Ms Gambaro, Mr Griffin, Mr Hawker, Mr Latham, Mr Nairn, Mr Pyne, Mr Somlyay, Dr Southcott.
Education and Training	Mr Bartlett, Mr Cox, Mrs Elson, Ms Gambaro, Mr Johnson, Mrs May, Mr Pearce, Ms Plibersek, Mr Sawford, Mr Sidebottom.
Employment and Workplace Relations	Mr Barresi, Mr Bevis, Mr Dutton, Ms Hall, Mr Hartsuyker, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Ms Panopoulos, Mr Schultz, Ms Vamvakinou, Mr Wilkie.
Environment and Heritage	Mr Barresi, Mr Billson, Mr Cobb, Ms George, Mr Hunt, Mr Jenkins, Mr Kerr, Mr Lindsay, Ms Livermore, Mr McArthur.
Family and Community Affairs	Mr Cadman, Mrs Draper, Mr Dutton, Mr Edwards, Ms Ellis, Ms George, Mrs Hull, Mrs Irwin, Mr Pearce, Mr C. P. Thompson.
Industry and Resources	Mr Adams, Mr Byrne, Mr Gibbons, Mr Haase, Mr Hatton, Mr Prosser, Mr Randall, Mr Somlyay, Mr C. P. Thompson, Dr Washer.
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Mrs B. K. Bishop, Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Cadman, Mr Kerr, Mr Melham, Mr Murphy, Ms Panopoulos, Mr Sciacca, Mr Secker, Dr Washer.
Science and Innovation	Ms Corcoran, Mr Evans, Mr Forrest, Ms Grierson, Mr Hatton, Mr Lindsay, Mr Nairn, Mr A. D. H. Smith, Mr Ticehurst, Dr Washer.

Transport and Regional Services	Mr Andren, Mr Gibbons, Mr Haase, Mrs Ley, Mr McArthur, Mr Mossfield, Mr Neville, Ms O'Byrne, Mr Schultz, Mr Secker.
House	Mr Charles, Mrs Crosio, Mr Haase, Ms Jackson, Mr Quick, Mr Somlyay.
Library	Mr Adams, Mrs Draper, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Georgiou, Ms Hoare, Mr Randall.
Members' Interests	Mrs Crosio, Mr Haase, Mr Jenkins, Mr Lindsay, Mr Neville, Mr Quick, Mr C. P. Thompson.
Privileges	Mr Baird, Mr Billson, Mrs B. K. Bishop, Mr Brereton, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr McLeay, Mr Sawford, Mr Scott, Mr Somlyay.
Procedure	Mrs B. K. Bishop, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Haase, Mr P. E. King, Mrs May, Mr Price, Ms Vamvakinou.
Publications	Mr Adams, Mr Cobb, Mrs Crosio, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Ms J. S. McFarlane, Mr Randall, Mr Tollner.
JOINT STATUTORY	
Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	Ms J. S. McFarlane, Mr Price.
Corporations and Financial Services	Mr Byrne, Mr Ciobo, Mr Griffin, Mr Hunt, Mr McArthur.
National Crime Authority	Mr Baird, Mr Dutton, Mr Kerr, Mr Sercombe, Mr C. P. Thompson.
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund	Mr Cobb, Dr Lawrence, Ms Panopoulos, Mr Secker, Mr Snowdon.
Public Accounts and Audit	Mr Charles, Mr Ciobo, Mr Cobb, Mr Georgiou, Ms Grierson, Mr Griffin, Ms C. F. King, Mr P. E. King, Ms Plibersek, Mr Somlyay.
Public Works	Mr Jenkins, Mr Lindsay, Mr Lloyd, Mrs Moylan, Mr B. P. J. O'Connor, Mr Ripoll.
JOINT STANDING	
Electoral Matters	Mr Danby, Mr Forrest, Mr Georgiou, Mrs Ley, Mr Melham.
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Mr Baird, Mr Baldwin, Mr Beazley, Mr Bevis, Mr Brereton, Mr Edwards, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mrs Gash, Mr Hawker, Mr Jull, Mr Lindsay, Dr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nairn, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr Scott, Mr Snowdon, Mr Somlyay, Mr C. P. Thompson.
Migration	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Ms Gambaro, Mrs Gash, Mrs Irwin, Mr Ripoll, Mr Schultz.
National Capital and External Territories	Ms Ellis, Mr Johnson, Mr Neville, Mr Snowdon, Mr C. P. Thompson.
Treaties	Mr Adams, Mr Baldwin, Mr Bartlett, Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Ciobo, Mr Evans, Mr P. E. King, Mr Scott, Mr Wilkie.

Question—put and passed.

8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing) moved—That leave of absence for today and 21 March 2002 be given to Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister) for maternity purposes.

Question—put and passed.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) presented the following paper:

Meeting of Commonwealth Chairpersons' Committee on Zimbabwe—Marlborough House Statement on Zimbabwe—Commonwealth News Release, London, 19 March 2002.

Questions without notice concluded.

10 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Communications Authority—National Relay Service Provider Performance—Report for 2000-01.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Selection Committee—Report for 2000-01.

Australian Sports Commission—Strategic plan for 2002-05.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Report—Innovating rural Australia: Research and development corporation outcomes, 2001.

Finance—Advance to the Finance Minister —
Statement for February 2002.

Supporting application for issues from the Advance during February 2002.

Maritime Industry Finance Company Limited—Report under clause 9 of the deed of grant for the period 1 July to 31 December 2001.

Productivity Commission—Report No. 15—Cost recovery by government agencies—
Recommendations and findings, 16 August 2001.

States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act 1996—Report on financial assistance granted to each State in respect of 2000.

Takeovers Panel—Report for 2000-01.

Telecommunications Act 1997—Funding of research and consumer representation in relation to telecommunications—Report for 2000-01.

11 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Productivity Commission—Report No. 15—Cost recovery by government agencies—Recommendations and findings, 16 August 2001.

Takeovers Panel—Report for 2000-01.

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

12 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HIGH COURT

The House was informed that both Mr McClelland and Mr Windsor had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, the Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr McClelland, namely, “The failure of the Attorney-General to defend the High Court and one of its justices from the attacks made on them by the Prime Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr McClelland addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 18, 19 March 2002, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senator Watson had been discharged from attendance on the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories, and Senator Colbeck had been appointed a member of the committee.

14 BILL REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Lloyd (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the Marriage Amendment Bill 2002 be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration.

Question—put and passed.

15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2001-2002—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 Tuckey (Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

16 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2001-2002—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 Tuckey (Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

17 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2001-2002—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 Tuckey (Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

18 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Hardgrave, by leave, presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Australia—Report, September 2001.

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

19 VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (GOLD CARD EXTENSION) BILL 2002

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 Windsor (see item 6, page 128)*—

Debate resumed.

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

The House divided and only Mr Andren, Mr Katter and Mr Windsor voting “No”, the Deputy Speaker (Mr Price) declared the question 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. 11, 19 March 2002, 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 Mrs D. S. Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

20 VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FURTHER BUDGET 2000 AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2002

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. 12, 20 February 2002, 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 Mrs D. S. Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

21 QUARANTINE AMENDMENT BILL 2002

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 Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the Bill was read a third time.

22 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2002

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.

Mr Emerson moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House is of the opinion that the bill should not be proceeded with, and:

- (1) calls on the Prime Minister to honour his promise to release the Tax Office audit report into the GST activities of the Queensland Division of the Liberal Party;
- (2) notes that the audit confirmed that the GST scam perpetrated in the Groom FEC was conducted more generally by the Liberal Party throughout other areas of Queensland;
- (3) notes that the Tax Office imposed a 50% penalty tax on the Queensland Division of the Liberal Party, indicating the falsehood of Government claims that the GST scam was an ‘error’ or a ‘mistake’;
- (4) calls on the Treasurer to explain the details of the \$143,000 worth of sponsorships and internal Liberal Party transfers upon which GST was not paid when it should have been; and
- (5) calls on the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources to explain whether or not his FEC used the proceeds of the GST scam, which were in the FEC bank account as at August 2001, for his re-election campaign”.

Debate continued.

Mr Andren addressing the House—

23 ADJOURNMENT

It being 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 March 2002:

Christmas Island Act—List of Western Australian Acts for period 22 September 2001 to 21 March 2002.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—List of Western Australian Acts for period 22 September 2001 to 21 March 2002.

Defence Act—Determination under section 58B—2002 No. 3.

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Canberra 400 V8 car race 2002—Approval of works.

Quarantine Act—Determination—2002 Quarantine Service Fees Amendment (No. 1).

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Burke*, Mrs Gallus, Mr Howard, Jackie Kelly*, Mr Sciacca and Mr Somlyay.

* On leave

B. C. WRIGHT

Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives

2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 13

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2002

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2001-2002

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 McMullan, viz.*—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 its:

- (1) pre-election spending spree;
- (2) speculation in currency derivatives at a cost of nearly \$5 billion over the life of this Government;
- (3) blatant disregard for the application of Australian accounting standards in compiling its own accounts;
- (4) failure to recognise the GST as a Commonwealth tax and this Government as the highest taxing Government of all time;
- (5) complete lack of disclosure and accountability in relation to the escalating costs of the so-called ‘Pacific Solution’;
- (6) breaking its election promise to make health insurance affordable by approving a premium increase at twice the rate of inflation;
- (7) misleading the public about the real cost of its defence commitments prior to the election;
- (8) woefully inadequate support for the development of the broadband infrastructure integral to Australia’s participation in the information economy;
- (9) inadequate attempts to remedy chronic under funding of research and innovation; and
- (10) failure to address the significant investment needs in the areas of education and the provision of social services”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

4 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2001-2002

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.

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.

5 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2001-2002

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.

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 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 Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to (*see item number 7, page 18*)—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of sitting

At 1.30 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting

At 4.02 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Suspension of sitting

At 4.49 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 4.57 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continuing—

Disorder arising, the Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and indicated that he would report the matter to the House.

7 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mrs Gash, the Main Committee adjourned at 7.21 p.m.

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

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J. W. PENDER
Clerk of the Main Committee