

2004-05

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 20

TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2005

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

**2 OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBER**

Mr Katter made and subscribed the oath of allegiance required by law.

**3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Trade), Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) would answer questions on his behalf.

**4 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**5 DOCUMENT**

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, during a personal explanation, presented the following document:

13 nations that have lower interest rates than Australia—Source: OECD, Quarterly National Accounts database, 4 March 2005.

**6 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS**

The Speaker presented the following documents:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 2004–2005—Performance audits—

No. 28—Protecting Australian missions and staff overseas: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Trade Commission.

No. 29—The Armidale Class patrol boat project—Project management: Department of Defence.

No. 30—Regulation of Commonwealth radiation and nuclear activities: Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

Reports ordered to be made Parliamentary Papers.

**7 DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were presented:

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly reports of the Chief Executive Officer for the period—

1 April to 30 June 2004.

1 July to 30 September 2004.

Australian Research Council—Strategic plan for 2005-07.

Commonwealth Grants Commission—State revenue sharing relativities—2005 update.

Gene Technology Regulator—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2004.

Industry Research and Development Board—Report for 2003-04—Corrigenda.

Pooled Development Funds Registration Board—Report for 2003-04.

Regional Forest Agreements—New South Wales—

Eden Region—Reports—

2000-01.

2001-02.

North East Region—Reports—

2000-01.

2001-02.

Southern Region—Report for the period 24 April 2001 to 30 June 2002.

*Telecommunications Act 1997*—Funding of research and consumer representation in relation to telecommunications—Report for 2003-04.

Telecommunications carrier industry development plans—Progress report for 2003-04.

#### 8 DOCUMENTS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENTS

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following documents:

Industry Research and Development Board—Report for 2003-04—Corrigenda.

Pooled Development Funds Registration Board—Report for 2003-04.

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

#### 9 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent order of the day No. 1, government business, being called on immediately.

Question—put and passed.

#### 10 IRAQ—AUSTRALIAN TASK GROUP DEPLOYMENT—DOCUMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Abbott (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the document (*presented on 7 March 2005*), viz.:

Iraq—Australian Task Group Deployment—Ministerial Statement—

Debate resumed.

*Member directed to leave*

At 3.47 p.m. the Member for Fowler (Mrs Irwin) was directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for continuing to interject, and she accordingly left the Chamber.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Ms Gambaro—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

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 failure of the Government to deliver for Australian women”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Macklin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), for Mr Beazley, by leave, addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

#### 12 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 7 March 2005, were reported returning the following bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 68—Defence Amendment 2005.

No. 69—National Security Information (Criminal Proceedings) Amendment (Application) 2005.

No. 70—Aged Care Amendment (Transition Care and Assets Testing) 2005.

No. 71—Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 6) 2004.

**13 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following document:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 14 March 2005.

**14 MATTER REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Bartlett (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Iraq—Australian Task Group Deployment—Ministerial Statement—Motion to take note of document: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

**15 MEDICAL INDEMNITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2005**

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. 41, 16 February 2005, 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 immediately.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Minister for Health and Ageing), the bill was read a third time.

**16 FARM HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT AMENDMENT BILL 2005**

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 G. M. O'Connor 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 the failure of Farm Help and other programs to deliver appropriate structural adjustment assistance where it is needed in the farm sector”.

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 immediately.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the bill was read a third time.

**17 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FURTHER 2004 ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2005**

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) failing to pay families the full \$300 annual increase in the maximum rate of FTB Part B starting from 1 July 2005, which is what it promised in its election policy *Extra assistance for families*;
- (2) hypocritically claiming that the payment of up to \$150 that families will now receive from 1 July 2005 is a ‘bonus’, when in fact it is only half of what was promised in *Extra assistance for families*;
- (3) taking away from eligible families the choice of receiving the additional FTB Part B money fortnightly, and instead paying it as a lump sum as part of eligible families ‘tax returns; and

- (4) failing to address the ongoing work disincentives caused by FTB Part B that penalise second income earners and harm labour force participation”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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. 42, 16 February 2005, 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 immediately.

On the motion of Mr Billson (Parliamentary Secretary—Foreign Affairs and Trade), the bill was read a third time.

#### 18 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (2005 MEASURES NO. 1) BILL 2005

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 having been resumed by Ms Macklin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)—

#### 19 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.30 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a.m.

#### DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 8 March 2005:

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—Amendment No. 44—Office employment location policies [F2005L00580].

Amendment No. 48—Signs policies—Flexibility provisions and sponsorship signs in the Parliamentary Zone [F2005L00505].

Amendment No. 49—Civic—Principles and policies [F2005L00542].

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—Instruments under subsection 303DC(1), 11, 26 November 2004.

Financial Management and Accountability Act—Determinations—Establishment of a special account—2005 Nos 2, 3 [F2005L00550], [F2005L00553].

#### ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Edwards, Mr Jull, Ms Plibersek\*, Ms Roxon and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.

\* On leave

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

2004-05

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

No. 20

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2005**

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1 The Main Committee met at 4.05 p.m.

**2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2004-2005**

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 Swan, 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) dishonest promises during the 2004 election campaign that it would keep interest rates low;
- (2) short-term, reckless spending during the lead up to the 2004 election, which is adding to inflationary and interest rate pressures;
- (3) gross neglect of Australia’s education and training needs, leaving Australia with a skills crisis which is adding to inflationary and interest rate pressures; and
- (4) failure to secure Australia’s economic future by making the long term policy commitments that will improve the productivity and competitiveness of the Australian economy”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Bowen 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.

**3 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Neville, the Main Committee adjourned at 8.29 p.m.

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

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