

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 177

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2007



1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (SIMPLIFIED GST ACCOUNTING) BILL 2007**

Mr Dutton (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.

Document

Mr Dutton presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Dutton moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

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

3 **INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS (NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT) AMENDMENT (COSMETICS) BILL 2007**

Mr Pyne (Minister for Ageing), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to cosmetics and industrial chemicals, and for related purposes.

Document

Mr Pyne presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Pyne moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

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

4 **ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) AMENDMENT (TOWNSHIP LEASING) BILL 2007**

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.

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

AYES, 79

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Laming	Mr Schultz
Mr Andrews	Mr Farmer	Mrs Ley	Mr Scott
Fran Bailey	Mr Fawcett	Mr Lindsay	Mr Secker
Mr Baird	Mr M. D. Ferguson	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Mr Baker	Mr Forrest	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Mr Baldwin	Ms Gambaro	Mr Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Markus	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Billson	Mr Haase	Mrs May	Mr Ticehurst
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Mirabella	Mr Tollner
Ms J. Bishop	Mr Hartsuyker	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Mr Henry	Dr Nelson	Mr Turnbull
Mr Brough	Mrs Hull*	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Causley	Dr Jensen	Mr Pearce	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Ciobo	Mr Johnson	Mr Prosser	Mr Vasta
Mr Cobb	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Costello	Mr Katter	Mr Randall	Dr Washer
Mr Downer	Mr Keenan	Mr Richardson	Mr Windsor
Mrs Draper	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Robb	Mr Wood
Mr Dutton	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 50

Mr Adams	Mrs Elliot	Mr Hayes	Ms Plibersek
Mr Andren	Ms K. M. Ellis	Ms Hoare	Mr Price
Mr Beazley	Mr Emerson	Mrs Irwin	Mr Quick
Mr Bevis	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Jenkins	Mr Ripoll
Ms Bird	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms King	Ms Roxon
Mr Bowen	Mr Fitzgibbon	Dr Lawrence	Mr Sawford
Ms A. E. Burke	Mr Garrett	Ms Livermore	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr A. S. Burke	Mr Georganas	Mr McClelland	Mr Snowdon
Mr Byrne	Ms George	Ms Macklin	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Corcoran	Mr Gibbons	Mr Melham	Ms Vamvakinou
Mr Crean	Mr Griffin	Mr B. P. O'Connor	Mr Wilkie
Mr Danby*	Ms Hall*	Mr G. M. O'Connor	
Mr Edwards	Mr Hatton	Ms Owens	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr Brough (Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), the bill was read a third time.

5 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (2007 BUDGET MEASURES) BILL 2007

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 S. F. Smith 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;

(1) the House notes that the Budget announcements in higher education come after more than 11 years of neglect and complacency towards, and underinvestment in, Australia’s higher education sector, and that under this Government:

(a) as a proportion of total revenue, Commonwealth grants to universities have decreased from 60 per cent of their revenue in 1996 to 40 per cent, at the same time university revenue

derived from private sources of income has gone from 35 per cent to 52 per cent and revenue from fees and charges has increased from 13 per cent in 1996 to 24 per cent;

- (b) Commonwealth investment in education as a proportion of total Government expenditure is actually forecast in the Budget to fall from 7.7 per cent in 2005-06 to 7.4 per cent in 2010-11; and
 - (c) there has been a significant and serious run-down of research infrastructure, including a failure to provide a real increase for Australian Research Council project funding; and
- (2) further, the House notes that the Budget:
- (a) abolishes the current cap of 35 per cent on full-fee domestic undergraduate degree places; and
 - (b) increases HECS contributions for Commerce, Economics and Accounting courses to the maximum amount while at the same time reducing the Commonwealth contribution for those courses”.

Debate continued.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 97, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 43 of 2006–2007—Performance audit—Managing security issues in procurement and contracting.

Ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

8 DOCUMENT

Mr Swan, by leave, during a personal explanation, presented the following document:

The Treasurer's economic myths: 14 and counting.

9 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were presented:

AusLink—Report for 2005-06.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Telecommunications reports for 2005-06—Report 1: Telecommunications competitive safeguards for 2005-06; Report 2: Changes in the prices paid for telecommunications services in Australia 2005-06.

Australian Land Transport Development Programme—Progress report for 2003-04.

Department of Health and Ageing—Private health insurance—Report on premium increases for quarter ending 30 June 2007.

Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—Assessment of detention arrangements—

Government response to the Commonwealth and Immigration Ombudsman's statements—Personal identifiers 138/07 to 199/07.

Reports by the Commonwealth and Immigration Ombudsman—Personal identifiers 138/07 to 199/07.

Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator—Report for 2006.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on the exchange of information with respect to taxes (Saint John's, Antigua, 30 January 2007).

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in respect of the Netherlands Antilles for the exchange of information with respect to taxes (Canberra, 1 March 2007).

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Kingdom of Thailand on mutual assistance in criminal matters, done at Kuala Lumpur on 27 July 2006.

Agreement on health care insurance between Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium done at Canberra on 10 August 2006.

Agreement on operational and strategic cooperation between Australia and the European Police Office (Europol) (The Hague, 20 February 2007).

Extension of the agreement of 4 December 1997 between the Government of Australia and the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization in relation to the functioning of the Australian Patent Office as an international searching authority and international preliminary examining authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (to be signed at WIPO in Geneva in October 2007).

Protocol between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China amending the agreement for the surrender of accused and convicted persons of 15 November 1993 (Hong Kong, 19 March 2007).

*Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—*International convention for the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments (London, 13 February 2004).

10 DOCUMENTS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENTS

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

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Telecommunications reports for 2005-06—Report 1: Telecommunications competitive safeguards for 2005-06; Report 2: Changes in the prices paid for telecommunications services in Australia 2005-06.

Department of Health and Ageing—Private health insurance—Report on premium increases for quarter ending 30 June 2007.

*Migration Act 1958—Section 486O—*Assessment of detention arrangements—

Government response to the Commonwealth and Immigration Ombudsman's statements—Personal identifiers 138/07 to 199/07.

Reports by the Commonwealth and Immigration Ombudsman—Personal identifiers 138/07 to 199/07.

Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator—Report for 2006.

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

11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH CARE

The House was informed that Ms Roxon had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's failure to take responsibility for the health care of all Australians".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Roxon addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

The time allotted under sessional order No. 1 having expired, the discussion was interrupted.

12 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following bills without amendment:

12 June 2007—Message No. 526—Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment (Child Support Reform Consolidation and Other Measures) 2007.

13 June 2007—Messages—

No. 527—Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 3) 2007.

No. 528—Tax Laws Amendment (Small Business) 2007.

No. 529—Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment (2007 Budget Measures) 2007.

No. 530—Tax Laws Amendment (2007 Measures No. 2) 2007.

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, 18 June 2007.

14 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (2007 BUDGET MEASURES) BILL 2007

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 S. F. Smith (see item No. 5, page 1944)*—

Debate resumed.

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

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

AYES, 75

Mr Abbott	Mr Fawcett	Mrs Ley	Mr Secker
Mr Anderson	Mr M. D. Ferguson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Slipper
Mr Andrews	Ms Gambaro	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Fran Bailey	Mrs Gash	Mr Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Mr Georgiou	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Mr Baker	Mr Haase	Mrs Markus	Dr Stone
Mr Barresi	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs May	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Hartsuyker	Mrs Mirabella	Mr Ticehurst
Mr Billson	Mr Henry	Mr Nairn	Mr Tollner
Ms J. Bishop	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Broadbent	Mrs Hull*	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Ciobo	Dr Jensen	Mr Pearce	Mr Turnbull
Mr Cobb	Mr Johnson	Mr Prosser	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mrs Draper	Mr Katter	Mr Randall	Mr Vasta
Mr Dutton	Mr Keenan	Mr Richardson	Mr Wakelin
Mrs Elson	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Robb	Dr Washer
Mr Entsch	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ruddock	Mr Wood
Mr Farmer	Mr Laming	Mr Scott	

NOES, 55

Mr Adams	Ms A. L. Ellis	Mr Hatton	Mr G. M. O'Connor
Mr Andren	Ms K. M. Ellis	Mr Hayes	Ms Owens
Mr Beazley	Mr Emerson	Ms Hoare	Mr Price
Mr Bevis	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mrs Irwin	Mr Quick
Ms Bird	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Jenkins	Mr Ripoll
Mr Bowen	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kerr	Ms Roxon
Ms A. E. Burke	Mr Garrett	Ms King	Mr Sawford
Mr A. S. Burke	Mr Georganas	Dr Lawrence	Mr Sercombe
Mr Byrne	Ms George	Ms Livermore	Mr S. F. Smith
Ms Corcoran	Mr Gibbons	Mr McClelland	Mr Snowdon
Mr Crean	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Swan
Mr Danby*	Ms Grierson	Mr McMullan	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Edwards	Mr Griffin	Mr Melham	Mr Wilkie
Mrs Elliot	Ms Hall*	Mr B. P. O'Connor	

* Tellers

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. 302, 28 May 2007, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr S. F. Smith, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) and (2) together.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Nairn (Special Minister of State), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

15 FINANCIAL SECTOR LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESTRUCTURES) BILL 2007

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 immediately.

On the motion of Mr Dutton (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer), the bill was read a third time.

16 SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT (APPRENTICESHIP WAGE TOP-UP FOR AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICES) BILL 2007

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 S. F. Smith 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 welcomes additional financial support for first and second year apprentices but condemns the Government’s complacency and neglect of vocational education and training over the past 11 long years seen through:

- (1) the Government slashing its investment in vocational education and training by 13 per cent in the three years to 2000;
- (2) between 2000 and 2004, increasing this investment by only 1 per cent;
- (3) the failure of the Government to address the acute shortages of skilled labour across Australia, which the Government itself estimates to be a shortfall of 240,000 skilled workers by 2016;
- (4) the cynical political response to the national skills crisis of a standalone network of Australian Technical Colleges that will only produce 10,000 graduates by 2010; and
- (5) the failure of the Government to address apprenticeship completion rates, with almost 50 per cent of apprentices cancelling or withdrawing from training each year while Labor has been calling since 2005 for \$2000 payments to encourage completion of traditional trade apprenticeships”.

17 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a.m.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 13 June 2007:

AusLink (National Land Transport) Act—Variation under section 88—2007 AusLink roads to recovery list No. 1 [F2007L01583].

Australian Citizenship Act 2007—Proclamation under subsection 2 (1) fixing 1 July 2007 as the day on which sections 2A to 54 of that Act commence [F2007L01653].

Australian National University Act—

Rules—2007—

ANU college governance [F2007L01680].

Membership of the council [F2007L01679].
Statute—2007 Residential colleges affiliation [F2007L01681].
Civil Aviation Act—
Civil Aviation Regulations—Directions—2007 No. CASA 172 [F2007L01462].
Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—
Part 39-105—2007—
2 May [F2007L01593].
14 May [F2007L01598].
15 May [F2007L01599].
16 May [F2007L01563].
17 May [F2007L01562].
24 May [F2007L01600].
Part 39-106—25 (3) May 2007 [F2007L01588], [F2007L01591], [F2007L01592].
Crimes (Overseas) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 140 [F2007L01543].
Customs Act—Tariff Concession Order—25 May 2007 [F2007L01643].
Customs Administration Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 141 [F2007L01604].
Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment Act—Proclamation under subsection 2 (1) fixing 1 July 2007 as the day on which Schedule 1 to that Act commences [F2007L01579].
Financial Management and Accountability Act—
Determinations to establish a special account—2007 Nos 2, 4 [F2007L01694], [F2007L01693].
Determinations to vary and abolish a special account—2007 Nos 3, 5 [F2007L01695], [F2007L01696].
Medicare Australia Act—Direction—2007 Medicare Australia (Functions of chief executive officer) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L01674].
Migration Act—Migration Regulations—Instrument—2007 Residential postcodes, skilled occupations, relevant assessing authorities and points No. IMMI 06/090 [F2007L01687].
National Health Act—
Declaration under subsection 85(2)—2007 No. PB 43 [F2007L01698].
Determination under sections 85, 85A and 88—2007 No. PB 45 [F2007L01700].

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ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Hunt, Mrs Moylan and Mr Murphy.

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I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2004-05-06-07

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 177

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2007

1 The Main Committee met at 9.30 a.m.

2 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

3 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2007-2008**

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

Schedule—

Proposed expenditures—

Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio, \$1,301,242,000—debated and agreed to.

Environment and Water Resources Portfolio, \$2,025,757,000—debated—

Suspension of meeting

At 11.45 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of meeting

At 11.58 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Transport and Regional Services Portfolio, \$846,521,000—debated and agreed to.

Suspension of meeting

At 1.02 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of meeting

At 4.01 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

Ordered—That the order for consideration of the proposed expenditures agreed to on Tuesday, 12 June 2007 by the Main Committee be varied by considering the proposed expenditure for the Defence Portfolio, not including Veterans' Affairs, after the proposed expenditure for the Immigration and Citizenship Portfolio.

Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio, \$2,727,649,000—debated and agreed to.

Human Services Portfolio, \$1,997,077,000—debated and agreed to.

Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio, \$2,750,313,000—debated and agreed to.

Education, Science and Training Portfolio, \$3,305,044,000—debated—

Suspension of meeting

At 6.33 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of meeting

At 6.47 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Immigration and Citizenship Portfolio, \$1,566,212,000—debated and agreed to.

Defence Portfolio, \$19,720,501,000—debated.

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

4 **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8 p.m., the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.

B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee