

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 185

THURSDAY, 9 AUGUST 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 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PROTECTING SERVICES FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INTO THE FUTURE) 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 Albanese who moved, as an amendment—That all words after ‘That’ be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House declines to give the bill a second reading and condemns the Government for its failure to invest the \$2 billion Communications Fund in a national fibre to the node broadband network to ensure:

- (a) parity of service and metro comparable pricing for all Australians serviced by the fibre to the node network;
- (b) the state of broadband services in Australia is turned around, after the past 11 years of neglect under the Howard Government;
- (c) Australians have access to the best available telecommunication technologies;
- (d) Australians in rural and regional areas have improved telecommunication services, including access to e-health and e-education, which are only possible over a fibre to the node network. The interest earned on the Communications Fund (up to \$400 million every 3 years) is not enough to ensure this;
- (e) 98 per cent of Australians, including those in rural and regional areas, have access to future proof telecommunications technology; and
- (f) the two per cent of people that the new fibre to node network will not reach have a standard of service, depending on the available technology, that is as close as possible to that provided by the new network”.

Debate continued.

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

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

AYES, 82

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Ms Ley	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr Farmer	Mr Lindsay	Mr Slipper
Mr Andrews	Mr Fawcett	Mr Lloyd	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Mr Baird	Mr M. D. Ferguson	Mr McArthur*	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baker	Ms Gambaro	Mr Macfarlane	Dr Southcott
Mr Baldwin	Mrs Gash	Mr McGauran	Dr Stone
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Markus	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Haase	Mrs May	Mr Ticehurst
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Mirabella	Mr Tollner
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hartsuyker	Mrs Moylan	Mr Truss
Ms J. Bishop	Mr Henry	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr Turnbull
Mr Brough	Mrs Hull*	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mr Hunt	Mr Pearce	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Ciobo	Dr Jensen	Mr Prosser	Mr Vasta
Mr Cobb	Mr Johnson	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	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	
Mrs Elson	Mr Laming	Mr Schultz	

NOES, 52

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

* 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr Farmer (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training), the bill was read a third time.

3 HEALTH AND AGEING—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following documents:

Health and Ageing—Standing Committee—The best start: Report on the inquiry into the health benefits of breastfeeding—

Report, August 2007.

Minutes of proceedings.

Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

Mr Somlyay moved—That the House take note of the report.

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

Mr Somlyay, by leave, moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.
Question—put and passed.

4 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Ms A. E. Burke presented the following documents:

Corporations and Financial Services—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission—

Report, incorporating a supplementary comment, August 2007.

Evidence received by the committee.

Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

Ms A. E. Burke, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

5 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—HARDENED AND NETWORKED ARMY (HNA) FACILITIES AT EDINBURGH DEFENCE PRECINCT, SA

Mr Lindsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence), 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: Hardened and Networked Army (HNA) facilities at Edinburgh Defence Precinct, SA.

Question—put and passed.

6 AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGES (FLEXIBILITY IN ACHIEVING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 recognises that the Government has failed to act to address the skills needs of the Australian economy by:

- (1) its continued failure over 11 long years in office to ensure Australians get the training they need for a skilled job and to meet the skills needs of the economy;
- (2) slashing funding to the existing TAFE system, with Commonwealth revenues in vocational education decreasing by 13 per cent from 1997 to 2000 and only increasing by one per cent from 2000 to 2004;
- (3) failing to make the necessary investments in existing vocational education and training infrastructure to create opportunities for young Australians to access high quality vocational education and training in all our secondary schools and in the TAFE system;
- (4) creating an expensive, inefficient, and duplicative network of stand alone Australian Technical Colleges, without cooperation or consultation with the States within the existing Vocational Education and Training framework;
- (5) appropriating more than half a billion dollars for 28 Colleges that will produce 10,000 graduates by 2010 when by the Government's own estimates there will be a shortage of 200,000 skilled workers over the next five years;
- (6) failing to provide opportunities for young people interested in pursuing vocational education and trades training who do not live near the 28 Australian Technical Colleges; and
- (7) not recognising that a broad approach covering all of Australia's 2650 secondary schools and the 1.2 million students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 is needed to meet Australia's future skills needs”.

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.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Document

Mr Swan, by leave, presented the following document:

Interest rates—FED: People better able to deal with rate rises now: Turnbull—Report from AAP, 9 August 2007

Questions without notice continuing—

Document

Mr Tanner, by leave, presented the following document:

Interest rates—Bank chief's parting shot at PM on rates—Article from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 August 2007.

Questions without notice continued.

8 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were presented:

Backing Australia's ability—The Australian Government's innovation report for 2006-07.

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Funding and disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates—Government response, August 2007.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Report 66—Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (4), 15 March and 11 May 2005—Government response.

9 DOCUMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT

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

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Funding and disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates—Government response, August 2007.

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

10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The House was informed that Mr Tanner had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's failure to ensure low interest rates and genuine housing affordability".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

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

11 FEDERAL MAGISTRATES AMENDMENT (DISABILITY AND DEATH BENEFITS) BILL 2006—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, Governor-General's messages recommending appropriations had been reported, and the bill had been agreed to with amendments (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the bill together with a schedule of amendments.

Amendments made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Dr Stone (Minister for Workforce Participation), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

12 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT (ADVERTISING AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2007—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had resolved that further proceedings on the bill be conducted in the House, and presented a certified copy of the bill.

Ordered—That further proceedings on the bill be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

13 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 9 August 2007, were reported returning the following bills without amendment:

No. 578—National Health Amendment (National HPV Vaccination Program Register) 2007.

No. 579—Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Cosmetics) 2007.

No. 580—International Tax Agreements Amendment (No. 1) 2007.

No. 581—Customs Tariff Amendment (No. 1) 2007.

No. 582—Corporations Amendment (Insolvency) 2007.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (NATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE POWERS AND WITNESS PROTECTION) BILL 2007

Message No. 575, 8 August 2007, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to the investigation of criminal activity and the protection of witnesses, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN POSTAL CORPORATION AMENDMENT (QUARANTINE INSPECTION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2007

Message No. 576, 9 August 2007, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—THERAPEUTIC GOODS AMENDMENT BILL 2007

Message No. 577, 9 August 2007, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to therapeutic goods, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

17 AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGES (FLEXIBILITY IN ACHIEVING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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. 6, page 2049)*—

Debate having been resumed by Mr Randall—

18 ADJOURNMENT

It being 4.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 5 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until 12.30 p.m. next Monday.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 9 August 2007:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal—No. 9 of 2007.

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Advice under paragraph 18(a)—7 August 2007.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andren, Fran Bailey, Mr Forrest, Mr Georganas, Ms Hoare and Mr Katter.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

2004-05-06-07

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 185

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 9 AUGUST 2007

1 The Main Committee met at 9.30 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

3 FEDERAL MAGISTRATES AMENDMENT (DISABILITY AND DEATH BENEFITS) BILL 2006

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.

Messages from the Governor-General

The following messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced:

No. 326, 29 March 2006, recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill; and

No. 327, 13 June 2007, recommending an appropriation for the purposes of amendments to the bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Document

Mr Ruddock (Attorney-General) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the bill.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock, by leave, Government amendments (1) to (7) were made together.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the bill be reported to the House with amendments.

4 CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT (ADVERTISING AND OTHER MATTERS) 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.

Mrs Draper moved—That further proceedings on the bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed—bill to be returned to the House.

5 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT (OHS) 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.

Mr Melham 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.

6 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

At 1.01 p.m., the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until 4 p.m. on Monday, 13 August 2007.



B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee