

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

**REPORT No. 6**

Committee and delegation business

and

private Members' business

**8 February 2017**

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Chair	Hon A. D. H. Smith MP, Speaker
Members	Ms N Marino MP (Chief Government Whip)
	Mr C Hayes MP (Chief Opposition Whip)
	Mr G Christensen MP (Nationals Chief Whip)
	Mr S Georganas MP
	Ms M Landry MP
	Mr G Perrett MP
	Mr R Ramsey MP
	Mr S Robert MP
	Ms J Ryan MP
	Mr B van Manen MP
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	Mr M Coulton MP, Deputy Speaker

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Acting Secretary	Mr R Selth
Committee support	Mr D Pecar
	Mrs A Fabbo
	Ms S Leahy

**Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation business  
and of private Members' business**

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1. The committee met in private session on 7 February 2017.
2. The committee determined the order of precedence and times to be allotted for consideration of committee and delegation business and private Members' business on Monday, 13 February 2017, as follows:

**Items for House of Representatives Chamber (10.10 am to 12 noon)**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**Notices**

- 1 Mr Wilkie:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the law in relation to the recovery of debts from payments made under the social security and family assistance law, and for related purposes. (*Social Security Legislation Amendment (Fair Debt Recovery) Bill 2017*)

(Notice given 7 February 2017.)

*Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.*

- 2 Mr Shorten:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* to improve donation transparency and accountability, and for related purposes. (*Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Donation Reform and Transparency) Bill 2017*)

(Notice given 7 February 2017.)

*Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.*

- 3 Ms McGowan:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*, and for related purposes. (*Infrastructure Australia Amendment (Social Sustainability) Bill 2017*)

(Notice given 7 February 2017.)

*Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.*

**4 Mr Katter:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the law in order to prevent non-First Australians and foreigners from arrogating for their personal benefit First Australian culture, and to stop the sale of art, souvenir items and any other cultural affirmations that exploit and thereby deprive First Australians of the rightful benefits from their culture, and for related purposes. (*Competition and Consumer Amendment (Exploitation of Indigenous Culture) Bill 2017*)

(Notice given 7 February 2017.)

*Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.*

**5 Mr Leaser:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the Order of Australia is the highest national honour awarded to Australian citizens for outstanding contributions to our country or humanity at large;
- (2) notes that since being established by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1975, there have been more than 30,000 recipients of awards in the Order of Australia;
- (3) recognises the almost one thousand recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order announced in the Australia Day 2017 Honours List who come from an array of fields including science, education, governance, business, community service and sport; and
- (4) congratulates all the recipients of awards in the 2017 Australia Day Honours List.

(Notice given 7 February 2017.)

*Time allotted — 70 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Mr Leaser — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 14 x 5 mins]

*Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.*

## **Items for Federation Chamber (11 am to 1.30 pm)**

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

#### **Notices**

**1 Mr Wallace:** To move—That this House:

- (1) congratulates the Government for pursuing an extensive technology reform agenda that will change the way Australians interact with Government services for the better;

- (2) recognises the:
- (a) actions the Government is taking to renew Centrelink's aging information technology system through the Welfare Payment Infrastructure Transformation program, which will improve the user experience for the many Australians who access these services each week, and ensure the long term sustainability of our welfare system;
  - (b) actions the Government is taking to upgrade and modernise the health and aged care payment system, and improve the services offered by Medicare to all Australians; and
  - (c) investment the Government is making in digital services such as myGov, to further improve this service which is now used by more than ten million Australians; and
- (3) congratulates the Government on pursuing a courageous reform agenda which is sorely needed to correct six successive years of under-investment by Labor.

*(Notice given 21 November 2016. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays including 13 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 30 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Mr Wallace — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

**2 Mr B. K. Mitchell:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that;
- (a) it has been 41 days since the opposition formally requested that the robo-debt system be suspended while it was fixed;
  - (b) the Minister for Human Services says that the system is working well despite reports of innocent people being targeted, Centrelink staff at breaking point and widespread concern outside this place;
  - (c) the robo-debt system has seen hundreds of people issued with debt notices which are either false or grossly inflated; and
  - (d) the robo-debt system is due to target Age Pension and Disability Support Pension recipients this year;
- (2) condemns the Minister for Human Services for his failure to respond to growing community concern and calls from welfare groups to act; and
- (3) calls on the Prime Minister to intervene to halt the system and fix it before age pensioners and those with disabilities are terrorised for debt they may not owe.

*(Notice given 7 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 50 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Mr B. K. Mitchell — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 10 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

## **Orders of the day**

**Mr Leeser:** Debate to be resumed on the motion of Mr Leeser—

That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the Order of Australia is the highest national honour awarded to Australian citizens for outstanding contributions to our country or humanity at large;
- (2) notes that since being established by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1975, there have been more than 30,000 recipients of awards in the Order of Australia;
- (3) recognises the almost one thousand recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order announced in the Australia Day 2017 Honours List who come from an array of fields including science, education, governance, business, community service and sport; and
- (4) congratulates all the recipients of awards in the 2017 Australia Day Honours List.

*(Notice given 7 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 50 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 10 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

## **Notices – continued**

**4 Ms McGowan:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) for more than eight years, regional communities in northeast Victoria have been frustrated by significant engineering failings on the Wodonga-Melbourne rail line;
  - (b) in 2016 the trains were on time 79.7 per cent of the time, with the rate dropping to 55.2 per cent in November, the train now takes half an hour longer to get from Southern Cross to Albury than 10 years ago;
  - (c) the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) maintains that it is meeting performance obligations under the terms of the 44 year lease agreement with the Victorian Government and under its charter;

- (d) the ARTC has spent \$134 million on remediation works that have not improved passenger rail services, with trains regularly slowed or replaced by buses; and
  - (e) the current arrangements are not meeting the need for reliable passenger rail services, instead regional communities are viewed as freight corridors; and
- (2) calls on the Australian Government:
- (a) as the sole shareholder of the ARTC, to update the ARTC Statement of Corporate Intent to ensure that passenger services and the transport needs of regional communities are considered core business;
  - (b) to direct the ARTC to release and review the current agreement between the ARTC and the Victorian Government for the Wodonga-Melbourne rail line, giving due consideration to the passenger rail services and the transport needs of regional communities; and
  - (c) to develop a long-term plan for passenger rail services that meets the economic, social and environmental needs of regional Australia.

*(Notice given 7 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 1.30 pm*

*Speech time limits —*

*Ms McGowan — 10 minutes.*

*Other Members — 10 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 2 x 10 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.*

## **Items for Federation Chamber (4.45 pm to 7.30 pm)**

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

#### **Notices - continued**

**5 Ms M. L. Landry:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that the Government has committed \$700 million to improve roads in Northern Australia including \$100 million through the Northern Australia Beef Roads Program (BRP) to improve roads essential to cattle transportation and to help producers to transport cattle to market more safely and efficiently;
- (2) upgrades under the BRP will be delivered to many areas including the:
  - (a) City of Rockhampton (upgrading between Gracemere saleyards and the Rockhampton abattoirs to provide access for Type 1 Road Trains), as well as upgrades to the Hann Highway, Barkly Highway, Flinders Highway, Capricorn Highway and Clermont to Alpha Road in Queensland;
  - (b) Great Northern Highway and Marble Bar Road in Western Australia; and

- (c) Outback Way, Arnhem Highway and Keep River Road in the Northern Territory;
- (3) under the BRP the Government recently committed to further upgrades including to the:
  - (a) Peak Downs Highway (Clermont-Nebo, Logan Creek to Nine Mile Creek), Port Alma Access Road near Rockhampton, Bowen Developmental Road and Landsborough Highway (Longreach-Winton) in Queensland;
  - (b) Tablelands Highway, Barkly Stock Route and Buntine Highway in the Northern Territory; and
  - (c) Cape Leveque Road and Great Northern Highway in Western Australia; and
- (4) commends the Government for recognising the potential of Northern Australia and investing in these key transport links.

*(Notice given 22 November 2016. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays including 13 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 35 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Ms M. L. Landry — 10 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 1 x 10 mins + 5 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

**6 Mr Thistlethwaite:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) that Australians live by the water. Being in and around water is part of our nation’s culture and our identity, but this regular exposure to water brings risks that can be fatal;
  - (b) that so far this summer in Australia 69 people have drowned on our coastline, in our pools and waterways, and paramedics report responding to 225 drownings or near drownings in November and December 2016;
  - (c) that in 2015-16, 280 people drowned in Australia; a 5 per cent increase in drownings from 2014-15;
  - (d) with concern that there is no national approach to swimming and water safety education in Australia, and that:
    - (i) the water safety education Australian children receive depends on where they live and in some cases on their parents income level;
    - (ii) not every Australian child is receiving the necessary instruction in swimming and water safety; and
    - (iii) in some states and territories there is no swimming and water safety program at schools; and

- (e) studies have consistently shown a concerning trend in children starting secondary school without the ability to swim. Research shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are less likely to achieve identified benchmarks for water safety competence compared to non-indigenous students and this is also the case for children not born in Australia; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) implement the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework (the Framework) and ensure every child has access to water safety and swimming education by the time they complete primary school. Every child should be given access to instruction in swimming and water safety in accordance with the Framework;
  - (b) conduct a parliamentary inquiry to investigate why many Australian children are not receiving adequate swimming and water safety education consistent with the Australian Water Safety Strategy and what measures it can adopt to improve access to swimming and water safety education;
  - (c) establish a national water safety education fund to provide support to the states and territories, water safety organisations and communities to ensure access to swimming pools, accredited trainers and water safety education for schools in communities which lack such facilities and services; and
  - (d) provide water and surf safety messages in foreign languages via tourism operators, flights, hotels, tours across Australia highlighting the importance of swimming and water safety on beaches, rivers, lakes and swimming pools.

*(Notice given 7 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 40 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Mr Thistlethwaite — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

**7 Mr Gee:** To move—That this House:

- (1) congratulates the Government on the success of the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF);
- (2) acknowledges the significant and positive impact that the NSRF is having in rural, remote and disadvantaged regions around Australia; and
- (3) notes that the:
  - (a) Government is investing \$205,622,942 million in 70 projects around New South Wales (NSW) under 3 rounds of the NSRF; and
  - (b) NSRF is delivering infrastructure projects to create jobs in regional areas, improve community facilities and support stronger and more sustainable communities across NSW.

*(Notice given 21 November 2016. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays including 13 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 30 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Mr Gee — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

**8 Ms Plibersek:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the Government's failure in school education policy, including:
  - (a) a cut of \$30 billion from schools (*Budget 2014-15 Overview*, 13 May 2014, page 7), breaking an election promise to match Labor's funding plan dollar for dollar;
  - (b) a proposal to cut all federal funding from public schools; and
  - (c) tearing up agreements negotiated by the previous Labor Government, that required states and territories to:
    - (i) maintain and grow their funding for schools, in return for increased Commonwealth funding; and
    - (ii) improve teaching quality, literacy and numeracy; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) urgently share a detailed plan for future funding of our schools, including the funding each state, system and school will receive from 2018 onwards;
  - (b) reverse the cut of \$30 billion from schools;
  - (c) explain why they tore up agreements that required states and territories to increase funding for schools as Commonwealth contributions increased, and improve teaching, literacy and numeracy; and
  - (d) prioritise funding for disadvantaged schools and introduce a proper students with disabilities loading, so all schools and students have the resources they need for a great education.

*(Notice given 7 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — 40 minutes.*

*Speech time limits —*

*Ms Plibersek — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking  
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration  
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

**9 Mr Hayes:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) children in conflict zones around the world are in danger and live in fear within their schooling environments as schools are being attacked or occupied by military forces;
  - (b) classrooms are being used to house munitions and sports fields are becoming battlefields, denying children their right to education;
  - (c) 57 countries have already endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration to protect education in armed conflict situations; and
  - (d) the Safe Schools Declaration aims to build an international community committed to respecting the civilian nature of schools and to develop the best practices for protecting schools from attack and military use; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) work with governments internationally to discourage the military use of schools, and promote security force policies and practices that better protect schools;
  - (b) consider Australia's participation at the Safe Schools Conference to be held in Buenos Aires on 28 and 29 March 2017; and
  - (c) condemn attacks on schools and education, particularly the recent incidents in Nigeria, Syria and Yemen.

*(Notice given 7 February 2017.)*

*Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 7.30 pm*

*Speech time limits —*

*Mr Hayes — 5 minutes.*

*Other Members — 5 minutes each.*

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking = 4 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.*

**THE HON A. D. H. SMITH MP**  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

8 February 2017