

1998

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 13

TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 1998

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- 1 The House met, at 2.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 2.31 p.m., the Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 3 p.m., the Speaker resumed the Chair.

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**2 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 3.45 p.m. the Member for Burke (Mr O'Keefe) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 3.46 p.m. the Member for Watson (Mr McLeay) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to pursue a course of action which the Speaker indicated he would regard as disorderly, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

*Dissent from ruling moved*

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That the ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued.

*Closure*

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 75

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr McArthur*	Mr Secker
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Forrest*	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Mrs Gallus	Ms May	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nairn	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Haase	Mr Nehl	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mrs Hull	Mr Prosser	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Williams
Mr Downer	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth
Mr Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair	

NOES, 64

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Ripoll
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Ms Roxon
Mr Beazley	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr Breton	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Ms Kernot	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the ruling be dissented from—being accordingly put—  
The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 64

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Ripoll
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Ms Roxon
Mr Beazley	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Ms Kernot	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra

## NOES, 75

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr McArthur*	Mr Secker
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Forrest*	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Mrs Gallus	Ms May	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nairn	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Haase	Mr Nehl	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mrs Hull	Mr Prosser	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Williams
Mr Downer	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth
Mr Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair	

\* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice concluded.

### 3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1998-99—

No. 18—Performance audit—Accounting for aid—The management of funding to non-government organisations—Follow up audit: Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

No. 19—Performance audit—The planning of aged care: Department of Health and Aged Care.

No. 20—Financial statement audit—Audits of the financial statements of Commonwealth entities for the period ended 30 June 1998: Summary of results and financial outcomes.

Severally ordered to be printed.

#### 4 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act—Nuclear Safety Bureau—Report NSB.QRM 43, for period 1 April to 30 June 1998.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—

Australian Horticultural Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

Australian Tourist Commission—Report for 1997-98.

Cotton Research and Development Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

Grains Research and Development Corporation—Report for 1997-98.

National Standards Commission—Report for 1997-98.

Copyright Act—Audio-Visual Copyright Society Ltd—Report for 1997-98.

Health Services Australia—Statement of corporate intent 1998-2000.

Housing Loans Insurance Act—Housing Loans Insurance Corporation—Report for period 1 July to 12 December 1997.

Industry Research and Development Act—Industry Research and Development Board—Report for 1997-98.

Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act—National Office of Local Government—Report for 1997-98.

Public Service Act—Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Report for 1997-98.

Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority—Statement of corporate intent 1998-99.

Stevedoring Levy (Collection) Act—Report for period 3 July to 31 October 1998.

*Telecommunications Act 1997—*

Australian Communications Authority—Telecommunications performance report for 1997-98.

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Putting Cables Underground Working Group—Report—Review of options for placing facilities underground.

**5 AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION—REPORT—  
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Public Service Act—Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—  
Report for 1997-98.

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

**6 PAPERS**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) presented the following papers:

Petitions not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—

Request to allow commencement of the phasing out of battery hen egg production and sales within the Australian Capital Territory (Mr Billson, 52 petitioners).

Requesting the Government to consider re-funding the JPET Youth Services Program or provide alternative funding for services for youth in the Corio/Norlane area (Mr O'Connor, 950 petitioners).

**7 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH  
SERVICES**

The House was informed that Ms Macklin had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to develop long term policies to deliver properly resourced public health services complemented by a well regulated and efficient private health sector”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Macklin rising to address the House—

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 75

Mr Abbott	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Secker
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Forrest*	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mrs Gallus	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mrs Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Ms May	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Haase	Mr Nairn	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mrs Hull	Mr Nugent	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Prosser	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Williams
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	Dr Wooldridge
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair	Ms Worth
Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz	

## NOES, 65

Mr Adams	Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Albanese	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beazley	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Brereton	Ms Hall	Mr Martin	Mr Sidebottom
Ms Burke	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Smith
Mr Cox	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Snowdon
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Swan
Mrs Crosio	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Tanner
Mr Danby	Mr Jenkins	Ms O'Byrne	Dr Theophanous
Mr Edwards	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilkie
Dr Emerson	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Zahra
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll	
Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

**8 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Messages from the Senate, 7 December 1998, were reported:

- (a) returning the Child Support Legislation Amendment Bill 1998 and acquainting the House that the Senate has agreed to the amendment made by the House—Message No. 20;
- (b) returning the Wool International Amendment Bill 1998 without amendment—Message No. 21; and
- (c) acquainting the House that the Senate concurs with the resolutions of the House relating to the appointment of the following joint committees:  
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund;  
National Crime Authority;  
Corporations and Securities;  
Electoral Matters;  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade;  
Migration;  
National Capital and External Territories; and  
Treaties—Message No. 19.

**9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION MEASURES (IMPLEMENTATION) BILL 1998**

Message No. 22, 7 December 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to provide for the implementation of national environment protection measures in respect of certain activities carried on by or on behalf of the Commonwealth and Commonwealth authorities, 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.

**10 COMMITTEES—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), 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	Mrs Draper, Mr Haase, Ms Hoare, Mr Katter, Mr Lieberman, Mr Lloyd, Mr Melham, Mr Quick, Mr Snowdon, Mr Wakelin
Communications, Transport and the Arts	Mr Gibbons, Mr Hardgrave, Mr Hollis, Mr Jull, Mr Lindsay, Mr McArthur, Mr Mossfield, Mr Murphy, Mr Neville, Mr St Clair
Economics, Finance and Public Administration	Mr Albanese, Ms Burke, Ms Gambaro, Mr Hawker, Mrs Hull, Mr Latham, Mr Pyne, Mr Somlyay, Dr Southcott, Mr Wilton

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>
Employment, Education and Workplace Relations	Mr Barresi, Mr Bartlett, Dr Emerson, Ms Gambaro, Mrs Gash, Ms Gillard, Mr Katter, Dr Nelson, Mr Sawford, Mr Wilkie
Environment and Heritage	Mr Barresi, Mr Bartlett, Mr Billson, Mr Causley, Mrs Gallus, Ms Gerick, Mrs Irwin, Mr Jenkins, Dr Lawrence, Mrs D. S. Vale
Family and Community Affairs	Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Edwards, Ms Ellis, Mrs Elson, Ms Hall, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Dr Nelson, Mr Quick, Mr Schultz, Mr Wakelin
Industry, Science and Resources	Mr Baird, Mr Hatton, Mr Lawler, Mr Lloyd, Mr Morris, Mr Nairn, Mr Prosser, Ms Roxon, Dr Washer, Mr Zahra
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Mr K. J. Andrews, Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Cadman, Mr Kerr, Ms Livermore, Mr Mossfield, Ms Roxon, Mr St Clair, Mrs D. S. Vale
Primary Industries and Regional Services	Mr Adams, Mr Andren, Mrs Bailey, Mr Horne, Mr Katter, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Mr McLeay, Mr Nairn, Mr Secker, Mr Sidebottom, Mr C. P. Thompson,
House	Mr Charles, Mr Hollis, Mr McLeay, Mr Nehl, Mr Sawford, Mr Somlyay
Library	Mr Adams, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Ms Hoare, Mr Lawler, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Dr Washer
Members' Interests	Mr K. J. Andrews, Mrs Crosio, Mr Jenkins, Mr Neville, Mr Nugent, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Somlyay
Procedure	Mr Cameron, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Ms Gerick, Mr Price, Mr Pyne
Privileges	Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Danby, Mr McLeay, Mrs May, Mr Jull, Mr Neville, Mr Sawford, Mr Sercombe, Mr Somlyay
Publications	Mr Hardgrave, Mrs Hull, Mr Lieberman, Mr Lloyd, Ms J. S. McFarlane, Mr Rudd, Mr Sidebottom
<b>JOINT STANDING</b>	
Electoral Matters	Mr Danby, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Forrest, Mr Nairn, Mr Somlyay



<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Mrs Bailey, Mr Baird, Mr Brereton, Mr G. J. Evans, Mr Hawker, Mr Hollis, Mr Jull, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Lieberman, Mr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nugent, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr Pyne, Mr Snowdon, Dr Southcott, Dr Theophanous, Mr A. P. Thomson
Migration	Mr Baird, Mrs Gallus, Mrs Irwin, Mrs May, Mr Ripoll, Dr Theophanous
National Capital and External Territories	Mr Cameron, Ms Ellis, Mr Neville, Mr Snowdon, Mr Somlyay
Treaties	Mr Adams, Mr Baird, Mr Bartlett, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Elson, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Hardgrave, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr A. P. Thomson
<b>JOINT STATUTORY</b>	
Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	Mr Adams, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Mr Lindsay, Mr Morris
Corporations and Securities	Mr Cameron, Mr Rudd, Mr Sercombe, Dr Southcott
National Crime Authority	Mr Edwards, Mr Hardgrave, Mr Kerr, Mr Nugent, Mr Somlyay,
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund	Mr Causley, Mr Haase, Mr Melham, Mr Secker, Mr Snowdon
Public Accounts and Audit	Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Brough, Mr Charles, Mr Cox, Mr Georgiou, Ms Gillard, Mr Griffin, Ms Plibersek, Mr St Clair, Mr Somlyay
Public Works	Mrs Crosio, Mr Forrest, Mr Hollis, Mr Lindsay, Mrs Moylan, Mr Ripoll

Question—put and passed.

#### 11 RETAILING SECTOR—PROPOSED JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Joint Select Committee on the Retailing Sector be appointed to inquire into and report on:
  - (a) the degree of industry concentration within the retailing sector in Australia, with particular reference to the impact of that industry concentration on the ability of small independent retailers to compete fairly in the retail sector;
  - (b) overseas developments with respect to this issue, highlighting approaches adopted in OECD economies; and
  - (c) possible revenue-neutral courses of action by the Federal Government (ie courses of action that do not involve taxation reform).

- (2) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any Independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 1 Senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 2 Senators to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint select committee until completion of the joint committee's report.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (6) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (7) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, shall have a casting vote.
- (8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee.
- (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (11) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee.
- (12) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (13) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records.
- (14) That the committee or subcommittee have power to move from place to place.
- (15) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during the adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (16) That the committee report no later than 6 months after this resolution is agreed to by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

- (17) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the House of Representatives Standing Committees on Industry, Science and Technology and the Senate Economics References Committees appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (18) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (19) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**12 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—LAVARACK BARRACKS REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 2, TOWNSVILLE, QLD**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), 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: Lavarack Barracks Redevelopment Stage 2, Townsville, Qld.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**13 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CSIRO QUEENSLAND CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES STAGE 2 DEVELOPMENT, PINJARRA HILLS, QLD**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), 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: CSIRO Queensland Centre for Advanced Technologies Stage 2 Development, Pinjarra Hills, Qld.

Question—put and passed.

**14 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CSIRO NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES RESEARCH, BENTLEY, WA**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), 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: CSIRO National Centre for Petroleum and Mineral Resources Research, Bentley, WA.

Question—put and passed.

**15 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING**

The Deputy Speaker reported that 9 December 1998, at 10 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

**16 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 8 February 1999.

**17 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) BILL 1998**

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 Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:*

- (1) condemns the Government for seeking to introduce a GST which is an unnecessary, unfair, job destroying tax which discriminates against low and middle income earners, the aged and families;
- (2) condemns the Government for putting at risk the low inflation environment delivered by Labor by proposing to introduce an inflationary GST which will put at risk the low interest rates made possible by low inflation;
- (3) condemns the Government for placing a higher priority on imposing a GST on Australian families that will make the tax system less equitable, rather than addressing tax avoidance loopholes, which would improve the equity of the tax system;
- (4) condemns the Government for the hypocrisy of claiming that hidden indirect taxes are unfair merely because they are not separately disclosed to consumers and then proposing a massive new GST which will also be hidden from consumers even though a retail tax can simply be made transparent to consumers; and
- (5) condemns the Government for granting the GST a higher legislative priority than all of the following related matters which have not as yet been introduced into the Parliament including:
  - (a) those matters listed below which are contingent on the GST package which the Government is hiding from the Australian people and from the Senate inquiry process such as:
    - (i) the mechanism by which the rate of GST is supposed to be locked in;
    - (ii) the amendments to the Trade Practices Act which will grant the ACCC greater power to police the changeover to the GST regime which the Government claims will result in all of the reductions in Commonwealth and state taxes being passed on to consumers;

- (iii) excise arrangements for petrol and diesel, involving supposedly retail price neutral shifts in petrol prices and a 25 cent reduction in diesel;
- (iv) the repeal of the so-called safety net excise arrangements which were implemented after the High Court ruled State business franchise fees to be unconstitutional;
- (v) the luxury car tax;
- (vi) the wine equalisation tax;
- (vii) repeal/amendment to the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme;
- (viii) the First Home Buyers Scheme;
- (ix) the guaranteed distribution of GST revenue to the states; and
- (x) the \$500 million GST start-up package for small business; and
- (b) those related taxation/equity matters which are not contingent on the GST but which should be made available to the Australian people for their consideration including:
  - (i) providing a Fringe Benefits Tax Exemption for remote area housing provided to employees in the mining industry;
  - (ii) the repeal of Commonwealth Local Government Funding Legislation;
  - (iii) changes to childcare assistance;
  - (iv) excise arrangements for tobacco;
  - (v) the entity taxation regime involving taxing companies, trusts, life insurance etc. under one common set of arrangements;
  - (vi) the business taxation measures involving the deferred company tax (ie full franking of all dividends) and the possible changes to the corporate rate and business concessions arrangements;
  - (vii) the new employer withholding arrangements which will replace the PAYE, PPS and RPS systems;
  - (viii) share buy-backs and liquidations;
  - (ix) extending capital gains tax relief and the retirement exemption for small business;
  - (x) limiting the existing Fringe Benefits Tax Exemption for non-profit organisations to \$17 000 gross-up value for each employee;
  - (xi) the anti-avoidance legislation addressing complex chains of trusts;
  - (xii) the repeal of provisional tax and the introduction of the new Pay As You Go tax payment arrangements;
  - (xiii) the changes to the timing of company tax arrangements; and
  - (xiv) refundable imputation credits”—

Debate resumed.

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

#### 18 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.



#### PAPERS

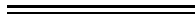
The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 December 1998:

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements under section—

40.

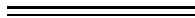
125.

Migration Act—Certificate under section 502 2 December 1998.



#### ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr G. J. Evans and Mr Horne.



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives