

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 33

TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 1999



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

**2 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr McMullan, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services)—

Mr Anderson presented the following paper:

Diesel fuel prices—“Senate report wrong on diesel tax cuts”—National Farmers’ Federation—News release, 30 March 1999.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Paper*

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care) presented the following paper:

Aged care places—Total aged care places—Australia, 1986 to 2002—Graph.

Questions without notice continued.

**3 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Advisory Panel on the marketing in Australia of infant formula—Report for 1997-98.

Foreign Investment Review Board—Report for 1997-98.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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

**4 VISIT TO SANDAKAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the success of the Government's mission to Sandakan and presented the following paper:

Success of Government's mission to Sandakan—Ministerial statement, 30 March 1999.

Mr Martin, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr Scott moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

**5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC ASSETS**

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 Prime Minister to acknowledge the verdict delivered last Saturday on the privatisation of public assets used by the whole community".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**6 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL**

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:

29 March 1999—Message No. 48—Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment 1999.

**7 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Messages from the Senate, 29 March 1999, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 64—Referendum Legislation Amendment 1999.

No. 65—Financial Management Legislation Amendment 1999.

**8 PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1999**

Dr Kemp (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment and management of the Australian Public Service, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Kemp moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Dr Kemp presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**9 PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL) AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

Dr Kemp (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to deal with consequential and transitional matters arising from the repeal of the *Public Service Act 1922* and the enactment of the *Public Service Act 1999*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Kemp moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Dr Kemp presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**10 EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Employment, Education and Training Act 1988*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Kemp moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Dr Kemp presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**11 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE**

Ordered—That notice No. 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**12 STATUTE STOCKTAKE BILL 1999**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr Williams (Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal redundant Acts, to make consequential amendments, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Slipper moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Slipper presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

### 13 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSAL

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) moved Customs Tariff Proposal No. 1 (1999).

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

### 14 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1999

Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Ruddock moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Ruddock presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

### 15 DEFENCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999

Mr Scott (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to defence, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Scott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Scott presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

### 16 WOOL INTERNATIONAL PRIVATISATION BILL 1999

Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to privatise Wool International, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr M. A. J. Vaile presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**17 COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Grants Commission Act 1973*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Slipper moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Slipper presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**18 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—RAAF BASE TOWNSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 1, TOWNSVILLE**

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: RAAF Base Townsville Redevelopment Stage 1, Townsville.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**19 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CSIRO RIVERSIDE CORPORATE PARK, NORTH RYDE, NSW**

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 Riverside Corporate Park, North Ryde, NSW—Joint Research Complex for CSIRO Molecular Science and Food Science Australia.

Question—put and passed.

**20 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—STAFF COLLEGES COLLOCATION PROJECT, WESTON CREEK, ACT**

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: Staff Colleges Collocation Project, Weston Creek, ACT.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**21 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Mr Charles (Chair) presented the following papers:

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—

Report 366—Review of Auditor-General's Reports 1997-98—Second quarter, 24 March 1999.

Report 367—Review of Auditor-General's Reports 1997-98—Third quarter, 24 March 1999.

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mr Charles and Mr Cox, by leave, made statements in connection with the reports.

**22 CIVIL AVIATION AMENDMENT 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—

Debate resumed.

*Paper*

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services) presented a correction to the explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Truss, the Bill was read a third time.

**23 NAVIGATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had returned the Bill for further consideration (*see item No. 2, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), 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.

**24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1999**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

30 March 1999—Message No. 66—Health Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1999.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

**25 TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS AMENDMENT (UNIVERSAL SERVICE CAP) BILL 1999**

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 forthwith.

On the motion of Mr McGauran (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts), the Bill was read a third time.

**26 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

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 Lee who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to provide for removal of the items which seek to impose voluntary student unionism, which will damage the interests of students, communities and the nation as a whole by:

- (1) undermining the independence of universities by imposing political conditions on Commonwealth grants;
- (2) reducing student representation in an attempt to silence opposition to higher education funding cuts;
- (3) slashing services available to students, such as child care, legal and employment advice, cafeterias and sporting facilities;
- (4) placing a further financial burden on universities; and
- (5) putting at risk community services, facilities and employment, particularly in regional areas.”

Mr Charles addressing the House—

---

**27 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

---

---

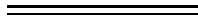
**PAPER**

The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 30 March 1999:

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Export Meat Amendment Orders 1999 (No. 1).

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Sullivan.

**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives



1998-99

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

No. 33

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 1999**

---

---

1 The Main Committee met at 4.30 p.m.

**2 NAVIGATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS) 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—

Debate resumed.

*Paper*

Ms Hoare, by leave, presented the following paper:

Rio Tinto—International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions—Report—Rio Tinto: Tainted Titan—The Stakeholders Report 1997, 1998.

Debate continued.

Mr Slipper moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed.

**3 YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSOLIDATION BILL 1999**

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.

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

**4 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mrs Elson, the Main Committee adjourned at 6.24 p.m.

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

---

---

**B. C. WRIGHT**

Clerk of the Main Committee