

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 40

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 1999



1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 REPUBLIC REFERENDUM—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), by leave, moved—That Mr Charles, Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Pyne, Mr Hawker, Mr Baird and Mr Causley be appointed members of the Joint Select Committee on the Republic Referendum.

Question—put and passed.

3 STEVEDORING LEVY (COLLECTION) AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Stevedoring Levy (Collection) Act 1998*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

4 AVIATION FUEL REVENUES (SPECIAL APPROPRIATION) AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Aviation Fuel Revenues (Special Appropriation) Act 1988*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

5 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (AVIATION FUEL REVENUES) BILL 1999

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

6 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT (AVIATION FUEL REVENUES) BILL 1999

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Tariff Act 1921*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

7 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Jackie Kelly moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Jackie Kelly presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

8 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT (LIFETIME HEALTH COVER) BILL 1999

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act 1953*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Dr Wooldridge presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

9 HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REVIEW) BILL 1999

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Papers

Dr Wooldridge presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill and, by leave, presented the following paper:

Professional Services Review Scheme—Review Committee—Report, March 1999.

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

10 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1999-2000—BUDGET DEBATE

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.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

12 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1998-99—Performance audits—

No. 43—Networking the nation—The Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund: Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

No. 45—Food safety regulation in Australia: Australia New Zealand Food Authority—Follow-up audit.

Severally ordered to be printed.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

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 Bills:

31 May 1999—Message No. 65—

Migration (Visa Application) Charge Amendment 1999.

Superannuation Legislation Amendment 1999.

Taxation Laws Amendment (Software Depreciation) 1999.

14 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH INSURANCE REBATE

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’s 30% health insurance rebate to achieve its membership target or restrict premium increases to less than twice the rate of inflation”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Macklin addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Mr Horne addressing the House—

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

15 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

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 Bills:

31 May 1999—Message No. 66—

National Health Amendment (No. 1) 1999.

Ozone Protection Amendment 1999.

16 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to with an amendment (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the amendment.

Amendment made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

17 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

18 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (CPI INDEXATION) BILL 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

19 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (DEMUTUALISATION OF NON-INSURANCE MUTUAL ENTITIES) BILL 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

20 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1999-2000—BUDGET DEBATE

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.

21 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPER

The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 2 June 1999:

Defence Act—Determination under section 58B—1999 No. 16.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Bailey, Ms Gerick, Ms Gillard, Ms Hoare, Dr Kemp, Mr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nehl, Mr Rudd, Dr Southcott, Mr A. P. Thomson, Mr K. J. Thomson and Dr Washer.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 40

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 1999

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

3 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Tanner, viz.*—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 notes that:

- (1) the government has not achieved real tax reform in Australia, it has merely agreed to introduce an unfair GST;
- (2) the new Howard/Lees GST will involve a massive tax mix switch which will hurt ordinary families, which is directly contrary to the balloted policy of the Australian Democrats;
- (3) that the Howard/Lees deal will actually increase the tax on food in Australia;
- (4) that ordinary people will now face a GST on top of State indirect taxes on bank accounts; and
- (5) that the amended tax package is still unfair and will also damage the environment”.

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Hockey moved the Government amendment.

Paper

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the Bill be reported to the House with an amendment.

4 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 Tanner 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 condemns the Government for sloppy taxation administration by delaying the closure of a tax avoidance loophole and being forced to introduce retrospective legislation and transitional provisions”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

5 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (CPI INDEXATION) 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 the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

6 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (DEMUTUALISATION OF NON-INSURANCE MUTUAL ENTITIES) 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 the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

7 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Main Committee adjourned at 12.23 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