

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 73

MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER 1999



1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE SERVICE AND TRAINING) BILL 1999**

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* to ensure that leave for participation in service and training as a member of the Australian Defence Force Reserves be one of the matters which can be taken to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission for conciliation or arbitration.

Mr Beazley made a statement in relation to the Bill.

*Paper*

Mr Beazley, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

3 **SIX BILLION PEOPLE DAY**

Dr Nelson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes Tuesday 12 October is the day of Six Billion People;
- (2) notes uncontrollable population expansion will lead to increasing pressure on the world leading to serious environmental and social problems;
- (3) while respecting cultural sensibilities, calls for a realistic approach to family planning, including access to information on family planning; and
- (4) stresses the issues of population and development are interconnected.

Debate ensued.

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

**4 OYSTER INDUSTRY**

Mr Horne, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) acknowledges the oyster industry as a responsible industry that is a large employer of people both directly and indirectly in regional Australia;
- (2) recognises that regional jobs are rapidly diminishing and the loss of a viable oyster industry would result in the loss of thousands of jobs in coastal Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria; and
- (3) calls on the Government as a matter of urgency to exclude oyster farmers from having to value their oyster crop as an asset and therefore be considered as income for taxation purposes starting in the year 2000-2001.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

**6 HOLT ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT**

The Speaker informed the House that, on Thursday, 30 September 1999, he had received from the Hon. G. J. Evans, a letter resigning his seat as Member for the electoral division of Holt, and that on Friday, 1 October 1999, he had issued a writ for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Holt, in the State of Victoria, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation. The dates fixed in connection with the election were those announced to the House on 30 September 1999.

**7 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**8 PETITIONS**

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

**9 PHARMACIES**

Mr Neville, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises the role of community pharmacy in the Australian health system;
- (2) notes the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on the Retailing Sector regarding the discouragement of pharmacies in chain stores;
- (3) draws attention to the independent professional status of Australian pharmacists in their delivery of dispensing and health advisory services; and
- (4) believes that pharmacy ownership should continue to reside with duly trained and qualified pharmacists.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 10 BROADCASTING FROM COX PENINSULA

Mr Hollis, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) calls on the Government to reverse the decision on the transmitters at Cox Peninsula near Darwin; and
- (2) urges the Government to recommence broadcasting from Cox Peninsula as a matter of urgency.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 11 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

#### 12 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—HMAS ALBATROSS STAGE 2 REDEVELOPMENT, NOWRA, 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: HMAS *Albatross* Stage 2 Redevelopment, Nowra, NSW.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

#### 13 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—NAVY AMMUNITIONING FACILITY, TWOFOLD BAY, 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: Navy Ammunitioning Facility, Twofold Bay, NSW.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

Message No. 211, 30 September 1999, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senator Bourne had been discharged from attendance on the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories and that Senator Greig had been appointed a member of the committee.

**15 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:

1 October 1999—Message No. 127—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment (No. 1) 1999.

**16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY**

Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**17 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (TAX ADMINISTRATION) 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 K. J. Thomson 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 this House:

- (1) condemns the Government for not providing adequate resources to the Australian Taxation Office to allow it to properly discharge its administrative functions;
- (2) condemns the Government for its indifference to the severe impact of the GST transitional provisions on the community and on industries such as the car industry;
- (3) condemns the Government for its continuing unwillingness to legislate against tax minimisation through the use of family trusts and notes the conflict of interest involved in approximately 17 Government frontbenchers holding family trusts;
- (4) calls on the Government to introduce into the House without delay the anti-avoidance entity taxation arrangements announced in the ANTS package;
- (5) notes with alarm the consequent failure of the Government’s response to the business tax revenue-neutral criterion and the effect of the resulting fiscal loosening on the current account deficit and on equity; and
- (6) notes that Jeff Kennett has received a strong rebuke from the voters of Victoria due to his championing of the GST, excessive secrecy and nobbling of the Auditor General”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 128, 1 October 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), the Bill was read a third time.

**18 AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1999—SENATE'S AMENDMENT**

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendment made by the Senate—

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.

**19 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 5 to 14, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**20 HUMAN RIGHTS 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.

Mr Andren addressing the House—

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**21 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 2 p.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 11 October 1999:  
A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act—Regulations—  
Statutory Rules 1999 No. 231.

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to delay in furnishing report within specified period—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission—Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council 1998–99 Annual Reports.

Child Care Act—Determinations—1999 Child Care (High Need Regions) Amendment (No. 1).

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—1999—  
Instruments Nos. CASA 931, CASA 1008, CASA 1009.  
Statutory Rules No. 229.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 225.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B 1999 No. 40.

Export Control Act—

Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Export Meat Orders (Amendment) 1999 No. 2.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 221.

Family Law Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 222.

Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 232.

Health Insurance Act—Instruments—1999 Health Insurance (Pathology—Licensed Collection Centres) Principles (No. 1).

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations 1999 Nos. T13, T14.

Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act—Regulations—  
Statutory Rules 1999 No. 224.

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 226, 227.

Military Superannuation and Benefits Act—Instruments—1999—Military Superannuation and Benefits Trust Deed (Amendment) No. 3.

National Health Act—Determinations—1999—

Health Benefits Reinsurance (Records of Organisations) Amendment No. 1.  
Nos. PB 10, PB 11.

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 228.

Public Service Act—Determinations—1999—  
Defence No. 7.

Nos. LES 10, LES 22, LES 23, LES 24.

Nos. SESROB 51, SESROB 52, SESROB 53, SESROB 54, SESROB 55,  
SESROB 56, SESROB 57.

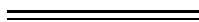
Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—Notices 1999 Nos. 9, 10.

States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act—  
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 223.

*Telecommunications Act 1997*—Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—A Code of Access to Telecommunications Transmission Towers, Sites of Towers and Underground Facilities, 7 October 1999

Trade Practices Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 230.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instruments—1999 Veterans' Children Education Scheme (Variation) No. 3.



**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Barresi, Ms Burke\*, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Gallus, Mr Katter, Mrs Moylan, Mr Prosser\* and Mr Somlyay.

\* On leave



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives