

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 82

TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 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 were asked.

3 EAST TIMOR—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement on East Timor and presented the following paper:

East Timor—Ministerial statement, 23 November 1999.

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

Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Extended time for speech

Mr Reith, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 27 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Debate adjourned (Mr Williams—Attorney-General), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1999-2000—Performance audits—

No. 15—Management of the Australian Development Scholarships Scheme—Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid).

No. 16—Superannuation Guarantee—Australian Taxation Office.

No. 17—Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement—Department of Family and Community Services.

No. 18—Electronic service delivery, including Internet use, by Commonwealth Government agencies.

No. 19—Aviation safety compliance—Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

No. 20—Special Benefit—Centrelink—Department of Family and Community Services.

Severally ordered to be printed.

5 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal—Report for 1998-99.

Attorney-General's Department—Report for 1998-99.

Australia Foundation for Culture and the Humanities—Financial statements for 1998-99.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Dried Fruits Board—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Electoral Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Hearing Services—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Horticultural Corporation—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report for 1998-99.

Australian National Railways Commission (Australian National)—Report for 1998-99.

Australian National Residue Survey Program—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Sports Drug Agency—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Transport Safety Bureau—Investigation report B98/166—Systemic investigation into Class G airspace demonstration.

Centrelink—Report for 1998-99—Erratum.

Commissioner of Taxation—Report for 1998-99.

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 1998-99.

Defence Housing Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Report for 1998-99.

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Report for 1998-99.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources—Report for 1998-99.

Director of National Parks and Wildlife—Report for 1998-99.

Employment National Limited—Financial statements for 1998-99.

Employment Services Regulatory Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Health Services Australia—Report for 1998-99.

Industry Research and Development Board—Report for 1998-99.

Infant Formula—Advisory panel on the marketing in Australia—Report for 1998-99.

Maritime Industry Finance Company Limited—Report for 1998-99.

Members of Parliament (Staff) Act—Report on consultants engaged under section 4, 1998-99.

Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Australia's visa system for visitors—Government response, November 1999.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 1998-99.

National Capital Authority—Report for 1998-99—Errata.

National Native Title Tribunal—Report for 1998-99.

Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing—Report for 1998-99.

Office of Parliamentary Counsel—Report for 1998-99.

Official Establishments Trust—Report for 1998-99.

Productivity Commission—Report No. 7—International Telecommunications Market Regulation, 23 August 1999.

Professional Services Review—Report for 1998-99.

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act—Report on the Act and National Cultural Heritage Fund for 1998-99.

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—Report—369—Australian Government Procurement—Government response, November 1999.

Public Service and Merit Protection Commission—Reports—1998-99—State of the service.

Workplace diversity.

Royal Australian Mint—Report for 1998-99.

Royal Australian Navy Relief Trust Fund—Report for 1998-99.

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Welfare reform: The challenge of welfare dependency in the 21st century—Discussion paper by Minister for Family and Community Services.

6 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Australian Hearing Services—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report for 1998-99.

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 1998-99.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources—Report for 1998-99.

Employment Services Regulatory Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Health Services Australia—Report for 1998-99.

Infant Formula—Advisory panel on the marketing in Australia—Report for 1998-99.

Professional Services Review—Report for 1998-99.

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority—Report for 1998-99.

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

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr Swan had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The severe impact of the Goods and Services Tax on the operation of charities and their delivery of services to the most disadvantaged Australians”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Swan addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 24 November 1999, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

9 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

National Residue Survey Levies Regulations (Validation and Commencement of Amendments) 1999;

Tradex Scheme 1999 [No. 2];

Tradex Duty Imposition (Customs) 1999;

Tradex Duty Imposition (Excise) 1999;

Tradex Duty Imposition (General) 1999; and

Customs Tariff Amendment (Tradex) 1999.

Question—put and passed.

10 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, 6 December 1999.

**11 AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 1999
[NO. 2]**

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.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Griffin, by leave, Opposition amendments (1) to (19) were together agreed to, after debate.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), the Bill was read a third time.

12 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1999—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS

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

On the motion of Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

13 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (1999 BUDGET AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 1999—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS

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

Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services) moved—That the amendments be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Closure

Mr Anthony moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the amendments be agreed to—was put accordingly and passed.

14 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (INDIRECT TAX AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) 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.

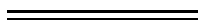
Mr Baird addressing the House—

15 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

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

**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 November 1999:

Bounty (Books) Act—Return for 1998-99.

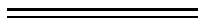
Bounty (Computers) Act—Return for 1998-99.

Bounty (Machine Tools and Robots) Act—Return for 1998-99.

Bounty (Ships) Act—Return for 1998-99.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Export Control (Fees) Amendment 1999 (No. 4).

Income Tax Assessment Act 1936—RHQ Company Determination 1999 No. 3.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Kernot, Mr Melham and Mr Prosser*.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives