

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 100

TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2003

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

**2 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs) would answer questions on his behalf.

**3 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Papers*

Mr Hockey (Minister for Small Business and Tourism) presented the following papers:

Media releases—

Industry hails tourism recovery package—TTF Australia Ltd, 13 June 2003.

Restaurant and catering taste tests the tourism green paper—Restaurant & Catering Australia, 5 June 2003.

\$20 million marketing campaign a huge boost for tourism—Australian Tourism Export Council, 13 June 2003

Tourism exports: A green paper priority—Australian Tourism Export Council, 5 June 2003.

WA peak tourism body applauds Federal initiatives—Tourism Council Western Australia, 13 June 2003.

Tourism industry—Extract of press conference—Media Monitors, 5 June 2003.

Questions without notice continued.

**4 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS**

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 2002–2003—Performance audits—

No. 46—Australian industry involvement program: Department of Defence.

No. 47—Implementation and management of the Indigenous employment policy: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

No. 48—Indigenous Land Corporation—Operations and performance follow-up audit: Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

No. 49—Management of the navigation aids network: Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Reports ordered to be printed.

**5 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Department of Health and Ageing—Private Health Insurance—Report on premium increases for quarter ending 31 March 2003.

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Striking the right balance: Draft amendment 39, National Capital Plan—Government response.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority—Supplementary report for 2001-02.

Telecommunications (Interception) Act—Report for 2001-02.

Treaties—

*Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis—*

Agreement on medical treatment for temporary visitors between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, done at Canberra on 28 March 2003.

Exchange of notes, done at Canberra on 7 April–27 May 2003, amending the agreement between the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the United States of America for the financing of certain educational and cultural exchange programmes of 28 August 1964.

*Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and regulation impact statement—*

Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Croatia on social security, done at Zagreb on 13 May 2003.

*Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis—*

Convention on the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, done at Honolulu on 5 September 2000.

Protocol on preparedness, response and co-operation to pollution incidents by hazardous and noxious substances, done at London on 15 March 2000.

## **6 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

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

Department of Health and Ageing—Private Health Insurance—Report on premium increases for quarter ending 31 March 2003.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority—Supplementary report for 2001-02.

Telecommunications (Interception) Act—Report for 2001-02.

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

## **7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TELSTRA**

The House was informed that Mr Tanner had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s intention to privatise Telstra”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

## **8 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members’ business on Monday, 23 June 2003.

## **9 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Messages from the Senate, 16 June 2003, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 263—Criminal Code Amendment (Hizballah) 2003.

No. 264—Taxation Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) 2003.

## **10 EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

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 (Mr Fitzgibbon), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**11 SELECTION COMMITTEE—AMENDED REPORT**

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Amended report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 23 June 2003—

and, by leave, moved—That the report be adopted in lieu of the report presented earlier today.

Question—put and passed.

**12 EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

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 Cobb was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

**13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2003**

Message No. 265, 17 June 2003, from the Senate was reported returning the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003 and acquainting the House that the Senate has considered Message No. 291 of the House relating to the Bill. The Senate insists upon its amendments disagreed to by the House of Representatives and desires the reconsideration of the Bill by the House in respect of the amendments.

Ordered—That consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**14 ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT (COURT PROCEDURES) BILL 2003—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 Brough (Minister for Employment Services), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**15 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Brough (Minister for Employment Services) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 9.30 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 June 2003:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals—2003 Nos 8, 9.

Native Title Act—Withdrawal of recognition of representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander body—2003 No. 1.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Downer, Dr Kemp, Mr I. E. Macfarlane\*, Mr Prosser, Mr Sidebottom and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.

\* On leave

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2002-03

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

No. 100

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2003

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1 The Main Committee met at 4 p.m.

**2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2003-2004**

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 McMullan, 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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) its obsession with shifting the cost of health and education from the budget to Australian families;
- (2) imposing higher costs of doctors’ visits on families without concession cards and a 30 per cent hike in essential medicine prices;
- (3) allowing HECS fees to rise by 30%, introducing a loan scheme with a 6% interest rate and doubling the number of places reserved for full fee paying students;
- (4) its cynical attempt to distract the public from these higher costs by offering miserly tax cuts of \$4 a week for the average family;
- (5) its failure to address the complexity of superannuation and its determination to offer super cuts only to the wealthiest families;
- (6) its willingness to deliver tax cuts to corporate Australia while imposing a record tax burden on Australian families;
- (7) its failure to protect the superannuation savings of Australian families by protecting them from corporate greed;
- (8) its decision to hire yet more tax officials rather than take steps to ease the BAS compliance burden on small business; and
- (9) its failure to provide leadership on environmental issues and in particular its failure to address water reform”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Slipper, (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, again addressed the Main Committee.

Amendment negatived.

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

*Consideration in detail*

Schedule—

Ordered—That the proposed expenditure for the purposes and services in the Schedule be considered in the following order, either separately or together, as shown:

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Department of Education, Science and Training	
Department of the Environment and Heritage	
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	
Attorney-General's Department	
Department of Family and Community Services	
Department of Transport and Regional Services	
Department of Veterans' Affairs	] together
Department of Defence	
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	
Department of Health and Ageing	
Department of Finance and Administration	] together
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Department of the Treasury	
Proposed expenditure—Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, \$874,432—	
Debate adjourned, by leave, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.	

### 3 ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT (COURT PROCEDURES) BILL 2003

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.

### 4 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Main Committee adjourned at 7.36 p.m.

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

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**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee