

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 118

THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2003

1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **INTERNATIONAL TAX AGREEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *International Tax Agreements Act 1953*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

3 **CRIMES (OVERSEAS) AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes (Overseas) Act 1964*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

4 **ENERGY GRANTS (CLEANER FUELS) SCHEME BILL 2003**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide grants relating to certain fuels, 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 following Bills:

Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme 2003; and

Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) 2003.

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

5 **ENERGY GRANTS (CLEANER FUELS) SCHEME (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2003**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to deal with consequential matters arising from the enactment of the *Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Act 2003*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

6 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 8) 2003

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, 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 (Ms Macklin—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS SPLITTING) BILL 2003

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) presented a Bill for an Act in respect of taxation measures relating to superannuation, 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 Swan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHANCERY BUILDING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—APPROVAL OF WORK

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*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of a new chancery building for the Australian High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Question—put and passed.

9 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 10 September 2003, were reported:

(a) returning the following Bill without requests:

No. 324—Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment 2003; and

(b) acquainting the House that Senator Conroy has been discharged from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit and Senator Hogg has been appointed a member of the committee—Message No. 325.

10 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (CLOSURE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPLEMENT SCHEME) 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 by Ms Macklin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House rejects the Bill and calls on the Government to:

- (1) maintain the student financial supplement scheme in recognition of the hardship faced by struggling students and their families;
- (2) reduce the age of independence for Youth Allowance from 25 to 23;
- (3) extend rent assistance to Austudy recipients; and

- (4) provide meaningful information to students on how the supplement compares to commercial loan products including the full range of effective interest rates applying to the supplement”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lindsay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 75

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Abbott | Mrs Draper | Jackie Kelly | Mr Schultz |
| Mr Andren | Mr Dutton | Dr Kemp | Mr Scott |
| Mr K. J. Andrews | Mrs Elson | Mr P. E. King | Mr Secker |
| Mr Anthony | Mr Entsch | Mrs Ley | Mr Slipper |
| Mr Baird | Mr Farmer | Mr Lloyd | Mr A. D. H. Smith |
| Mr Baldwin | Mr Forrest* | Mr McArthur* | Dr Southcott |
| Mr Barresi | Ms Gambaro | Mr I. E. Macfarlane | Dr Stone |
| Mr Bartlett | Mrs Gash* | Mr McGauran | Mr C. P. Thompson |
| Mr Billson | Mr Georgiou | Mrs May | Mr Ticehurst |
| Mrs B. K. Bishop | Mr Haase | Mrs Moylan | Mr Tollner |
| Ms J. I. Bishop | Mr Hardgrave | Mr Nairn | Mr Truss |
| Mr Brough | Mr Hartsuyker | Dr Nelson | Mr Tuckey |
| Mr Cadman | Mr Hawker | Mr Neville* | Mrs D. S. Vale |
| Mr Cameron | Mrs Hull | Ms Panopoulos | Mr Wakelin |
| Mr Causley | Mr Hunt | Mr Pearce | Dr Washer |
| Mr Charles | Mr Johnson | Mr Prosser | Mr Williams |
| Mr Ciobo | Mr Jull | Mr Pyne | Mr Windsor |
| Mr Cobb | Mr Katter | Mr Randall | Ms Worth |
| Mr Downer | Mrs D. M. Kelly | Mr Ruddock | |

NOES, 59

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr Adams | Mr M. J. Ferguson | Dr Lawrence | Mr Ripoll |
| Mr Albanese | Mr Fitzgibbon | Ms Livermore | Ms Roxon |
| Mr Beazley | Ms George | Mr McClelland | Mr Rudd |
| Mr Bevis | Mr Gibbons | Ms J. S. McFarlane | Mr Sawford |
| Ms Burke | Ms Gillard | Ms Macklin | Mr Sciacca |
| Mr Byrne | Ms Grierson | Mr McLeay | Mr Sercombe |
| Ms Corcoran | Mr Griffin | Mr McMullan | Mr Sidebottom |
| Mr Cox | Ms Hall | Mr Melham | Mr S. F. Smith |
| Mrs Crosio* | Mr Hatton | Mr Mossfield | Mr Swan |
| Mr Danby* | Ms Hoare | Mr Murphy | Mr Tanner |
| Mr Edwards | Mrs Irwin | Mr B. P. O'Connor* | Mr K. J. Thomson |
| Ms Ellis | Ms Jackson* | Mr G. M. O'Connor | Ms Vamvakinou |
| Mr Emerson | Mr Jenkins | Mr Organ | Mr Wilkie |
| Mr Evans | Ms C. F. King | Ms Plibersek | Mr Zahra |
| Mr L. D. T. Ferguson | Mr Latham | Mr Price | |

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lindsay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 75

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Abbott | Mrs Draper | Jackie Kelly | Mr Schultz |
| Mr Andren | Mr Dutton | Dr Kemp | Mr Scott |
| Mr K. J. Andrews | Mrs Elson | Mr P. E. King | Mr Secker |
| Mr Anthony | Mr Entsch | Mrs Ley | Mr Slipper |
| Mr Baird | Mr Farmer | Mr Lloyd | Mr A. D. H. Smith |
| Mr Baldwin | Mr Forrest* | Mr McArthur* | Dr Southcott |
| Mr Barresi | Ms Gambaro | Mr I. E. Macfarlane | Dr Stone |
| Mr Bartlett | Mrs Gash* | Mr McGauran | Mr C. P. Thompson |
| Mr Billson | Mr Georgiou | Mrs May | Mr Ticehurst |
| Mrs B. K. Bishop | Mr Haase | Mrs Moylan | Mr Tollner |
| Ms J. I. Bishop | Mr Hardgrave | Mr Nairn | Mr Truss |
| Mr Brough | Mr Hartsuyker | Dr Nelson | Mr Tuckey |
| Mr Cadman | Mr Hawker | Mr Neville* | Mrs D. S. Vale |
| Mr Cameron | Mrs Hull | Ms Panopoulos | Mr Wakelin |
| Mr Causley | Mr Hunt | Mr Pearce | Dr Washer |
| Mr Charles | Mr Johnson | Mr Prosser | Mr Williams |
| Mr Ciobo | Mr Jull | Mr Pyne | Mr Windsor |
| Mr Cobb | Mr Katter | Mr Randall | Ms Worth |
| Mr Downer | Mrs D. M. Kelly | Mr Ruddock | |

NOES, 59

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr Adams | Mr M. J. Ferguson | Dr Lawrence | Mr Ripoll |
| Mr Albanese | Mr Fitzgibbon | Ms Livermore | Ms Roxon |
| Mr Beazley | Ms George | Mr McClelland | Mr Rudd |
| Mr Bevis | Mr Gibbons | Ms J. S. McFarlane | Mr Sawford |
| Ms Burke | Ms Gillard | Ms Macklin | Mr Sciacca |
| Mr Byrne | Ms Grierson | Mr McLeay | Mr Sercombe |
| Ms Corcoran | Mr Griffin | Mr McMullan | Mr Sidebottom |
| Mr Cox | Ms Hall | Mr Melham | Mr S. F. Smith |
| Mrs Crosio* | Mr Hatton | Mr Mossfield | Mr Swan |
| Mr Danby* | Ms Hoare | Mr Murphy | Mr Tanner |
| Mr Edwards | Mrs Irwin | Mr B. P. O'Connor* | Mr K. J. Thomson |
| Ms Ellis | Ms Jackson* | Mr G. M. O'Connor | Ms Vamvakinou |
| Mr Emerson | Mr Jenkins | Mr Organ | Mr Wilkie |
| Mr Evans | Ms C. F. King | Ms Plibersek | Mr Zahra |
| Mr L. D. T. Ferguson | Mr Latham | Mr Price | |

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Anthony (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

11 STUDENT ASSISTANCE 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Anthony (Minister for Children and Youth Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

12 FUEL QUALITY STANDARDS 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 by Mr Griffin who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not denying the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) notes the failure of the Federal Government to protect Australian consumers by delaying the implementation of a mandatory national labelling regime for ethanol blended fuel despite the repeated public assurances of the Minister for Environment and Heritage;
- (2) notes the decision by the Howard Government to continue to protect the interests of the ethanol industry by continuing to subsidise the industry while failing to provide adequate protection for consumers;
- (3) notes the inadequacy of the proposed labelling regime to provide consumers with a sufficiently informed choice when purchasing ethanol blended fuel;
- (4) notes the failure of the Federal Government to release the proposed regulations that will determine what labelling information consumers will be given;
- (5) notes the Government’s general conduct in developing its ethanol policy behind closed doors in a clandestine manner; and
- (6) calls on the Government to release the regulations immediately to ensure public scrutiny of their proposals”.

Papers

Mr Griffin, by leave, presented the following papers:

Ethanol labelling—

Guide for consumers—Consumer Affairs Victoria Fact Sheet, April 2003.

Copy of label for ethanol blend petrol.

Copy of label for E10 unleaded Bogas with ethanol.

Debate continued.

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.

13 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by indulgence, made a statement on the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States of America.

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition), by indulgence, also made a statement on the matter.

14 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Papers

Ms Roxon, by leave, presented the following papers:

Australian Electoral Commission—Donor to political parties annual return—

Dante Tan, 18 December 2002.

Y. F. Yung, 10 December 2002.

Questions without notice continued.

15 AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 5 of 2003–2004—Business support process audit—The Senate order for departmental and agency contracts (Autumn 2003).

Ordered to be printed.

16 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 2002-03.

War Crimes Act—Report 2002-03.

17 PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr McGauran (Deputy Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 2002-03.

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

18 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence for the remainder of the current period of sittings be given to Mr Snowden on the ground of parliamentary business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

19 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ABC

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 attacks on the ABC”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Mr Murphy addressing the House—

20 ADJOURNMENT

It being 4.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 5 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.

PAPER

The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 11 September 2003:

Bounty (Ships) Act—Return for 2002-2003.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Fran Bailey, Mr Brereton, Mrs Gallus, Mr Kerr, Ms O’Byrne, Mr Quick, Mr Snowden*, Mr Somlyay and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.

* On leave

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

2002-03

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 118

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2003

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

Papers

Ms Draper, by leave, presented the following papers:

Goodall Road Reserve—

Copies of letters from Trish Draper MP to Members of City of Salisbury Council (18), 4 September 2003.

Copy of letter from Trish Draper MP to the Editor, News Review Messenger, 4 September 2003.

3 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (CUSTOMS) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 2002

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 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (EXCISE) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 2002

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—

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.

5 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (CUSTOMS) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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—

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 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (EXCISE) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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—

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 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Hull—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 8 September 2003*), viz.:

Family and Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Road to Recovery: Inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities, August 2003—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of sitting

At 11.38 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 11.53 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Ms George was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

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

8 ADJOURNMENT

Mrs Gash moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

At 1.01 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until Wednesday, 17 September 2003, at 9.40 a.m.

B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee