

2004-05-06

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 120

TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2006

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

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Document

Mr Fitzgibbon, in accordance with standing order 201, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Howard (Prime Minister)—

Mr Howard presented the following document:

Government policy on rebate for conversion to LPG for motorists—Copy of faxed letter from Anthony Chapman, CEO, APA Manufacturing Pty Ltd, to Mr Macfarlane, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, 5 September 2006.

Questions without notice continuing—

Members directed to leave

At 3.06 p.m. the Member for Ballarat (Ms King) and the Member for Wills (Mr K. J. Thomson) were directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for continuing to interject, and they accordingly left the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 1 of 2006–2007—Performance audit—Administration of the Native Title Respondents Funding Scheme: Attorney-General's Department.

Ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

4 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were presented:

Australia Post—Statement of corporate intent—2006/07-2008/09.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Report—Competition in the corporate customer segment of the telecommunications industry: January-December 2005, May 2006.

Department of the Environment and Heritage—Report—Energy use in the Australian government's operations—2004-05.

Gene Technology Regulator—Quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2006.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of India relating to air services, done at New Delhi, 6 March 2006.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of fiscal evasion, and protocol, done at Paris, 20 June 2006.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China relating to air services, done at Canberra, 23 March 2004.

Amendments, agreed in Shanghai on 25 May 2006, to the annex to the agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction and their environment, done at Tokyo, 6 February 1974.

Amendments, agreed in Shanghai on 26 May 2006, to the annex to the agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the protection of migratory birds and their environment, done at Canberra, 20 October 1986.

Convention between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of fiscal evasion, done at Canberra, 8 August 2006.

Treaty between the Government of Australia and the People's Republic of China on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (Canberra, 3 April 2006).

Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—Protocol V on explosive remnants of war, to the convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects (Geneva, 28 November 2003).

5 DOCUMENTS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENTS

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

Gene Technology Regulator—Quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2006.

Department of the Environment and Heritage—Report—Energy use in the Australian government's operations—2004-05.

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

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PRIVATISATION OF 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 incompetent handling of the privatisation of Telstra".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following document:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 11 September 2006.

8 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

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

Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand) 2005;

Defence Force (Home Loans Assistance) Amendment 2006; and

Protection of the Sea (Harmful Anti-fouling Systems) 2006.

Question—put and passed.

9 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 4 September 2006, were reported returning the following bills without amendment:

No. 363—Aviation Transport Security Amendment 2006.

No. 364—OHS and SRC Legislation Amendment 2006.

10 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BROADCASTING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2006

Message No. 362, 4 September 2006, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to broadcasting, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 MARITIME TRANSPORT AND OFFSHORE FACILITIES SECURITY AMENDMENT (SECURITY PLANS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2006

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 Bevis, 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 Howard Government for its failure to provide necessary maritime security and protect Australians, including:

- (1) the Howard Government’ s failure to conduct security checks on foreign crews;
- (2) the Government’ s continued failure to ensure foreign ships provide manifestos of crew and cargo before arriving at an Australian port;
- (3) the ready availability of single and multiple voyage permits for foreign flag of convenience ships including the ready availability of permits for foreign flag of convenience ships carrying dangerous materials in Australian waters and ports;
- (4) the failure of the Howard Government to examine or x-ray 90% of shipping containers;
- (5) the Government’ s failure to create a Department of Homeland Security to remove dangerous gaps and to better coordinate security in Australia; and
- (6) the Howard Government’ s failure to establish an Australian Coastguard to patrol our coastline”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), the bill was read a third time.

12 AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006

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: “whilst not declining to give the bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for:

- (1) its extreme and arrogant imposition of a nuclear waste dump on the Northern Territory;
- (2) breaking a specific promise made before the last election to not locate a waste dump in the Northern Territory;
- (3) its heavy-handed disregard for the legal and other rights of Northern Territorians and other communities, by overriding any existing or future State or Territory law or regulation that prohibits or interferes with the selection of Commonwealth land as a site, the establishment of a waste dump, and the transportation of waste across Australia;
- (4) destroying any recourse to procedural fairness provisions for anyone wishing to challenge the Minister’s decision to impose a waste dump on the Northern Territory;

- (5) establishing a hand-picked committee of inquiry into the economics of nuclear power in Australia, while disregarding the economic case for all alternatives sources of energy; and
- (6) keeping secret all plans for the siting of nuclear power stations and related nuclear waste dumps”.

Debate continued.

Ms Grierson addressing the House—

13 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.28 p.m., adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bevis, Mr Crean, Mr Entsch, Mrs Gash, Mr Griffin and Mr Katter.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives