

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 149

THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2007

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

2 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE AND APPROPRIATION FOR YEAR 2006-2007—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2006-2007**

Message No. 248, 31 January 2007, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending, in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, an appropriation for the purposes of the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2006-2007.

Mr Nairn (Special Minister of State) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government, and for related purposes.

Document

Mr Nairn presented the following document:

Statement of savings expected in annual appropriations—Department of Finance and Administration information paper 2006-2007.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Nairn moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

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

3 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2006-2007—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2006-2007**

Message No. 249, 31 January 2007, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending, in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, an appropriation for the purposes of the Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2006-2007.

Mr Nairn (Special Minister of State) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Nairn moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

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

4 **AGED CARE AMENDMENT (SECURITY AND PROTECTION) BILL 2007**

Mr Pyne (Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to aged care, and for related purposes.

Document

Mr Pyne presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Pyne moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

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

5 AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGES (FLEXIBILITY IN ACHIEVING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS NEEDS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 S. F. Smith, 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 recognises that the present Government has been complacent and neglectful about the Australian economy by:

- (1) presiding over a skills crisis through its continued failure over more than 10 long years in office to ensure Australians get the training they need to get a skilled job and meet the skills needs of the economy;
- (2) failing to make the necessary investments in our schools and TAFE systems to create opportunities for young Australians to access high quality vocational education and training, including at schools;
- (3) failing to increase the number of school-based traditional apprentices and provide funding support for schools in taking up the places;
- (4) creating expensive, inefficient, stand alone colleges, without cooperation with the States within the existing Vocational Education and Training framework;
- (5) riding roughshod over the States and Territories in establishing these Colleges, despite the role the States and Territories play in vocational education and training;
- (6) making Australian industry wait until 2010 for the Australian Technical Colleges to produce their first qualified tradesperson; and
- (7) failing to provide support to other regions that have skill shortages, but are not listed for a Technical College”—

Debate resumed.

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

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

AYES, 80

Mr Abbott	Mr Farmer	Mrs Ley	Mr Scott
Mr Andrews	Mr M. D. Ferguson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Secker
Fran Bailey	Mr Forrest	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Mr Baird	Ms Gambaro	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Mr Baker	Mrs Gash	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baldwin	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Markus	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mr Haase	Mrs May	Dr Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Mirabella	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Billson	Mr Hartsuyker	Mrs Moylan	Mr Ticehurst
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Henry	Mr Nairn	Mr Tollner
Ms J. Bishop	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Broadbent	Mrs Hull*	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hunt	Mr Pearce	Mr Turnbull
Mr Causley	Dr Jensen	Mr Prosser	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Ciobo	Mr Johnson	Mr Pyne	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Mr Vasta
Mrs Draper	Mr Keenan	Mr Richardson	Mr Wakelin
Mr Dutton	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Robb	Dr Washer
Mrs Elson	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ruddock	Mr Windsor
Mr Entsch	Mr Laming	Mr Schultz	Mr Wood

NOES, 57

Mr Adams	Ms K. M. Ellis	Mrs Irwin	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Emerson	Mr Kerr	Mr Ripoll
Mr Beazley	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms King	Ms Roxon
Mr Bevis	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Sawford
Ms Bird	Mr Garrett	Ms Livermore	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bowen	Mr Georganas	Mr McClelland	Mr S. F. Smith
Ms A. E. Burke	Ms George	Ms Macklin	Mr Snowdon
Mr A. S. Burke	Mr Gibbons	Mr McMullan	Mr Swan
Mr Byrne	Ms Gillard	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Ms Corcoran	Ms Grierson	Mr Murphy	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Griffin	Mr B. P. O'Connor	Ms Vamvakinou
Mr Danby*	Ms Hall*	Mr G. M. O'Connor	Mr Wilkie
Mr Edwards	Mr Hatton	Ms Owens	
Mrs Elliot	Mr Hayes	Ms Plibersek	
Ms A. L. Ellis	Ms Hoare	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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. 247, 1 December 2006, 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 immediately.

On the motion of Mr Robb (Minister for Vocational and Further Education), the bill was read a third time.

6 AUSCHECK 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 Mr Bevis 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 its failure to provide necessary security upgrades to protect Australians, including:

- (1) its careless roll-out of the Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) scheme. That flawed roll-out included the loss or theft of ASICs and a history of airport security bungling;
- (2) its delays in rolling-out the Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) scheme and its careless and widespread use of single and continuing voyage permits for foreign vessels with foreign crew who do not undergo appropriate security checks;
- (3) permitting foreign flag of convenience ships to carry dangerous goods on coastal shipping routes without appropriate security checks; and
- (4) failing to;
 - (a) ensure ships provide details of crew and cargo 48 hours before arrival;
 - (b) x-ray or inspect 90 per cent of containers;
 - (c) establish and properly fund an Australian Coastguard; and
 - (d) establish a Department of Homeland Security to better coordinate security in Australia”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock (Attorney-General), the bill was read a third time.

7 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE 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 Roxon 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 notes that:

- (1) while the expansion of private health insurance to coverage of services provided outside of hospital will have benefits for the 44% of Australians who have private health insurance, it will not provide access to the same kinds of services to the majority of Australians who don’t have private health insurance;
- (2) the expansion of private health insurance to cover a broader range of services will likely lead to further increases in private health insurance premiums;
- (3) the bill pays scant attention to safety and quality issues for services provided under the rubric of Broader Health Cover;
- (4) the bill does not include sufficient protections for the freedom of doctors to make clinical decisions about the treatment/s that will be in the best interests of their patients in relation to services provided under the rubric of Broader Health Cover; and
- (5) the \$50 million the Howard Government provided to the private health insurance industry in the last budget to advertise their products is a waste of taxpayers’ money and an appalling use of scarce health resources”.

Debate continued.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 97, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

8 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence overseas of Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Truss (Minister for Trade) would answer questions on his behalf.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Document

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) presented the following document:

Australian Government National Plan for Water Security—Funding—Copy of media release by Wendy Craik, Chief Executive of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, 8 February 2007.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member directed to leave

At 2.58 p.m. the Member for Blaxland (Mr Hatton) was directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly left the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

10 COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement concerning committee administrative practice and presented the following document:

Committee administrative practice: Discussion paper—Hon Ian Causley MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chair, Liaison Committee of Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs, February 2007.

11 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 25 of 2006–2007—Performance audit—Management of airport leases—Follow-up audit: Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

12 DOCUMENT

The following document was presented:

War Crimes Act—Report for 2005-06.

13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EDUCATION

The House was informed that Mr S. F. Smith had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The threat to Australia’s future economic and social prosperity caused by more than ten years of complacency and neglect by the current Government towards the education of our nation’s people”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr S. F. Smith addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

14 EXPORT FINANCE AND INSURANCE CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006—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 Dr Stone (Minister for Workforce Participation), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

15 MARITIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS) BILL 2006—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 Dr Stone (Minister for Workforce Participation), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

16 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE 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 Ms Roxon (see item No. 7, page 1686)*—

Ms Hall addressing the House—

17 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 5 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until 12.30 p.m. next Monday.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 8 February 2007:

Customs Act—Orders—

Tariff Concession—19 (14) January 2007 [F2007L00262], [F2007L00264], [F2007L00265], [F2007L00266], [F2007L00267], [F2007L00268], [F2007L00269], [F2007L00270], [F2007L00271], [F2007L00273], [F2007L00274], [F2007L00275], [F2007L00276], [F2007L00277].

Tariff Concession Revocation—

2006—12 (7) December [F2006L05183], [F2006L05427], [F2006L05499], [F2006L05625], [F2006L05691], [F2006L05723], [F2007L00138].

2007—

2 (4) January [F2007L00142], [F2007L00143], [F2007L00144], [F2007L00145].

3 January [F2007L00147].

4 January [F2007L00148].

Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Act—Proclamation under subsection 2(1) fixing 7 February 2007 as the day on which items 1 to 86 of Schedule 1 to that Act commence [F2007L00256].

Migration Act—Migration Regulations—Instruments—2006—

Access to movement records, No. IMMI 06/005 [F2007L00260].

Alternative English proficiency tests to the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), No. IMMI 06/070 [F2007L00297].

Military Superannuation and Benefits Act—Trust deed under subsection 5(1)—2007 No. 1 [F2007L00231].

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mr Cobb and Mr Downer.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

2004-05-06-07

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 149

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2007

1 The Main Committee met at 9.30 a.m.

2 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

Suspension of meeting

At 10 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of meeting

At 10.13 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

3 **EXPORT FINANCE AND INSURANCE CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

Document

Mr Truss (Minister for Trade) presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

Mr Truss moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr Crean 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:

- (1) notes that the bill will do little to correct Australia's trade balance which:
 - (a) has been in deficit for a record 57 consecutive months;
 - (b) recorded a trade deficit of \$11.7 billion in 2006;
 - (c) is contributing to a current account deficit of \$54 billion; and
 - (d) is contributing to a record \$0.5 trillion foreign debt; and
- (2) calls on the Government to take all necessary measures to address these failures”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put immediately.

Question—That the bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

4 **MARITIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS) 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.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put immediately.

Question—That the bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

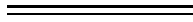
5 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Randall moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

At 1 p.m., the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until 4 p.m. on Monday, 12 February 2007.



B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee