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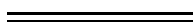
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 180

TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2007



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 were asked.

**3 COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

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

House of Representatives: General principles for the administration of parliamentary committees—Liaison Committee of Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs, 1 June 2007.

**4 PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH**

Mr Albanese raised, as a matter of privilege, a newspaper article of 1 May 2007, “Bishop’s last crack at Speaker’s chair”, and alleged possible intimidation of the Speaker.

*Document*

Mr Albanese, by leave, presented the following document:

“Bishop’s last crack at Speaker’s chair”—Article from *The Australian*, 1 May 2007.

The Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report to the House at a later time.

**5 AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORT**

The Speaker presented the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 45 of 2006–2007—Performance audit—The National Black Spot Programme: Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

**6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—BROADBAND SERVICE FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

The House was informed that both Mr Tanner and Mr Hardgrave had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 46, the Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Tanner, namely, “The Government’s failure to provide equal broadband service for regional Australia”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

The time allotted under sessional order No. 1 having expired, the discussion was interrupted.

**7 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Mr Tollner, by leave, presented the following document:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to observe the first round of the 2007 presidential election in East Timor, 7 to 11 April 2007—Report, 2007.

Mr Tollner, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

**8 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Ms A. E. Burke (Deputy Chair) presented the following documents:

Corporations and Financial Services—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Corporations Legislation Amendment (Simpler Regulatory System) Bill 2007 and related bills—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, June 2007.

Evidence received by the committee.

Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

Ms A. E. Burke, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

**9 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:

Migration Amendment (Review Provisions) 2006;

Financial Framework Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2007;

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Amendment 2007;

Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Cosmetics) 2007; and

Gene Technology Amendment 2007.

Question—put and passed.

**10 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (SIMPLIFIED GST ACCOUNTING) BILL 2007**

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 Emerson 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 calls on the government to assure Australian small businesses that it will not instruct the Australian Taxation Office to issue unfavourable GST ratios to businesses that apply for them, thereby negating the benefits of *BAS Easy*”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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. 304, 13 June 2007, 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 Dutton (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer), the bill was read a third time.

**11 WHEAT MARKETING AMENDMENT BILL 2007**

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 Crean who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:

- (1) notes:
- (a) the proposed legislative measures in the Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill arise directly from the Australian Wheat Board's role in the now infamous 'Wheat for Weapons Scandal';
  - (b) the Government should be held accountable for the fact that it:
    - (i) failed to act on at least 34 substantial warnings about the role of the AWB in the scandal;
    - (ii) failed to utilise the clear mechanism available to insist that the AWB reveal all information in its possession regarding its role in the AWB scandal;
    - (iii) failed to adopt practical and sensible measures to oversee the role of the AWB during the period of the 'Wheat for Weapons Scandal';
  - (c) the Government limited the terms of reference of the Cole Inquiry to such an extent that it was unable to meaningfully evaluate the culpability of the Government in the 'Wheat for Weapons Scandal'; and
- (2) calls on the Government to split the bill so as to separate:
- (a) the provisions relating to the extension of the temporary veto power of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry over non-AWB (International) Ltd bulk exports, from
  - (b) the remaining provisions of the bill, which should be referred to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for inquiry and report".

Debate continued.

Mr McClelland addressing the House—

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## 12 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

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

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## DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 19 June 2007:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals—2007 Nos 2, 3, 4.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—Part 39-105—14 (3) June 2007 [F2007L01765], [F2007L01773], [F2007L01774].

Higher Education Support Act—Higher education provider—Notice of approval—2007 No. 8 [F2007L01734].

Private Health Insurance Act—Rules—2007 Protheses Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L01775].

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## ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Baker, Mrs Draper, Mr Katter, Ms Livermore and Mr Murphy.

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