

**THE SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF  
OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES  
TO REPORTS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
JOINT COMMITTEES**

(also incorporating reports tabled and  
details of Government responses made in the period between  
22 June 2006, the date of the last schedule, and 6 December 2006)

7 December 2006

## **THE SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE REPORTS**

On 7 December 2006, the Government presented its response to a schedule of outstanding Government responses to parliamentary committee reports tabled in the House of Representatives on 22 June 2006.

It is Government policy to respond to parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation. In 1978 the Fraser Government implemented a policy of responding in the House by ministerial statement within six months of the tabling of a committee report. In 1983, the Hawke Government reduced this response time to three months but continued the practice of responding by ministerial statement. The Keating Government generally responded by means of a letter to a committee chair, with the letter being tabled in the House at the earliest opportunity. In 1996, the Howard Government affirmed the commitment to respond to relevant parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation. The Government also undertook to clear, as soon as possible, the backlog of reports arising from previous Parliaments.

The attached schedule lists committee reports tabled and government responses to House and joint committee reports made since the last schedule was presented on 22 June 2006. It also lists reports for which the House has received no government response. A schedule of outstanding responses will continue to be presented at approximately six monthly intervals, generally in the last sitting weeks of the winter and spring sittings.

The schedule does not include advisory reports on bills introduced into the House of Representatives unless the reports make recommendations which are wider than the provisions of the bills and which could be the subject of a government response. The Government's response to these reports is apparent in the resumption of consideration of the relevant legislation by the House. Also not included are reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, the House of Representatives Committee of Members' Interests, the Committee of Privileges, the Publications Committee (other than reports on inquiries) and the Selection Committee. Government responses to reports of the Public Works Committee are normally reflected in motions for the approval of works after the relevant report has been presented and considered. Reports from other committees which do not include recommendations are only included when first tabled.

Reports of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit primarily make administrative recommendations but may make policy recommendations. A government response is required in respect of such policy recommendations made by the committee. However, responses to administrative recommendations are made in the form of an Executive Minute provided to, and subsequently tabled by, the committee. Agencies responding to administrative recommendations are required to provide an Executive Minute within 6 months of tabling a report. The committee monitors the provision of such responses. The schedule only includes reports with policy recommendations.

7 December 2006

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (House, Standing)</b>			
Unlocking the future: The report of the Inquiry into the Reeves Review of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>	30-08-99	No response to date <sup>4</sup>	No
Many ways forward: Report of the inquiry into capacity building and service delivery in indigenous communities	21-06-04	01-11-06	No
<b>Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (House, Standing)</b>			
Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities – Interim Report	05-05-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Getting water right(s) – The future of rural Australia	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Taking control: a national approach to pest animals	28-11-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
<b>ASIO, ASIS and DSD (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Private review of agency security arrangements	13-10-03	07-09-06	No
<b>Australian Crime Commission (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	24-06-04	09-11-06	No
Examination of the Australian Crime Commission Annual Report 2003-2004	23-06-05	17-08-06	No
Supplementary report to the Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	11-08-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Review of the <i>Australian Crime Commission Act 2002</i>	10-11-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Examination of the Australian Crime Commission Annual Report 2004-2005	19-10-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (House, Standing)</b>			
From reel to unreal: future opportunities for Australia's film, animation, special effects and electronic games industries	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Digital Television: Who's Buying It?	13-02-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
<b>Corporations and Securities (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Report on aspects of the regulation of proprietary companies	08-03-01	No response to date <sup>6</sup>	No
<b>Corporations and Financial Services (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Report on the regulations and ASIC policy statements made under the <i>Financial Services Reform Act 2001</i>	23-10-02	No response to date <sup>7</sup>	No
Inquiry into the review of the <i>Managed Investments Act 1998</i>	12-12-02	No response to date <sup>8</sup>	No
Inquiry into Regulation 7.1.29 in Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No.3), Statutory Rules 2003 No.85	26-06-03	No response to date <sup>7</sup>	No
Money matters in the bush-Inquiry into the level of banking & financial services in rural, regional & remote areas of Australia	15-01-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Report on the ATM fee structure	15-01-04	No response to date <sup>9</sup>	No
Corporations amendment regulations 2003	24-03-04	No response to date <sup>7</sup>	No
Corporations Amendment Regulations 7.1.29A, 7.1.35A and 7.1.40(h)	02-06-04	No response to date <sup>10</sup>	No
Property Investment Advice – Safe as Houses?	23-06-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Timeshare: The Price of Leisure	05-09-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, December 2005	13-02-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Corporate responsibility: Managing risk and creating value	21-06-06	No response to date <sup>11</sup>	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, August 2006	16-08-06	No response to date	No
<b>Economics, Finance and Public Administration (House, Standing)</b>			
Numbers on the run: Review of the ANAO Report no. 37 1998-1999 on the management of Tax File Numbers	28-08-00	No response to date <sup>12</sup>	No
Review of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 2003	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Improving the superannuation savings of people under 40	19-06-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia & Payments System Board Annual Report 2005 (First report)	14-08-06	No response to date	No
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 2005 (Second report)	04-12-06	No response required	
<b>Electoral Matters (Joint, Standing)</b>			
The 2004 Federal Election: Report of the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2004 Federal Election and Matters Related Thereto	10-10-05	31-08-06	No
Funding and Disclosure: Inquiry into disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates	30-03-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
<b>Employment and Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation (House, Standing)</b>			
Working for Australia's future: increasing participation in the work force	14-03-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Making it work: Inquiry into independent contracting and labour hire arrangements	17-08-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Employment in the automotive component manufacturing sector	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Environment and Heritage (House, Standing)</b>			
Public good conservation: Our challenge for the 21 <sup>st</sup> century	27-09-01	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Sustainable cities	12-09-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Inquiry into a Sustainability Charter, Review of Green Office Procurement Audit (Interim Report)	04-09-06	No response to date	No
<b>Family and Community Services (House, Standing)</b>			
Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities	08-09-03	10-08-06	No
<b>Family and Human Services (House, Standing)</b>			
Overseas Adoption in Australia: Report on the inquiry into adoption of children from overseas	21-11-05	14-09-06	No
<b>Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Australia's free trade agreements with Singapore, Thailand and the United States: progress to date and lessons for the future	07-11-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Australia's Defence Relations with the United States	22-05-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with North Africa	22-05-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Australia's response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami	22-06-06	No response to date	No
Australia's relationship with the Republic of Korea; and developments on the Korean peninsula	22-06-06	No response to date	No
Review of the Defence Annual Report 2004-05	16-10-06	Time has not expired	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Health and Ageing (House, Standing)</b>			
The Blame Game: Report on the inquiry into health funding	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Industry, Science and Resources (House, Standing)</b>			
Getting a better return: Inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials second report	24-09-01	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Australia's Uranium: Greenhouse friendly fuel for an energy hungry world	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Intelligence and Security (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Review of the listing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)	26-04-06	No response required	
Review of administration and expenditure: Australian Intelligence Organisations Number 4 - Recruitment and Training	14-08-06	No response to date	No
Annual Report of Committee Activities 2005-2006	11-09-06	No response to date	No
Review of the relisting of Al-Qa'ida and Jemaah Islamiyah as terrorist organisations	16-10-06	Times has not expired	
Review of security and counter terrorism legislation	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Legal and Constitutional Affairs (House, Standing)</b>			
The third paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution	30-11-95	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime	11-08-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Review of technological protection measures exceptions	01-03-06	19-10-06	No
Harmonisation of Legal Systems within Australia and between Australia and New Zealand	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Migration (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Review of Audit Report No. 1 2005-2006: Management of Detention Centre Contracts Part B	05-12-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Negotiating the maze: Review of arrangements for overseas skills recognition, upgrading and license	11-09-06	No response to date	No
Report on the Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand: Australia – New Zealand Committee Exchange Program	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Norfolk Island electoral matters	26-08-02	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Antarctica: Australia's Pristine Frontier. Report on the adequacy of funding for Australia's Antarctic Program	23-06-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Norfolk Island Financial Sustainability: The Challenge – Sink or Swim	01-12-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Current and future governance arrangements for the Indian Ocean Territories	13-06-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Report on the visit to Norfolk Island 2-5 August 2006	16-10-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Native Title and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Land Account (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Report on the operation of Native Title Representative bodies	21-03-06	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Examination of annual reports 2004-2005	21-03-06	No response required	
<b>Procedure (House, Standing)</b>			
House Estimates: consideration of the annual estimates by the House of Representatives	13-10-03	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Media coverage of House proceedings including the Chamber, Main committee and committees (Final report)	10-10-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Learning from other parliaments: study program 2006	04-09-06	No response required	
Maintenance of the standing and sessional orders: Second report – review of sessional orders adopted on 17 March 2005 and 9 February 2006; and other matters	31-10-06	29-11-06 <sup>13</sup>	Yes
<b>Public Accounts and Audit (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Corporate governance and accountability arrangements for Commonwealth government business enterprises, December 1999 (Report No. 372)	16-02-00	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Developments in aviation security since the committee's June 2004 <i>Report 400: Review of aviation security in Australia – An interim report</i> (Report 406)	07-12-05	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Review of Auditor-General's reports tabled between 18 January and April 2005 (Report 407)	04-09-06	Time has not expired	
Annual report 2005-2006 (Report 408)	30-10-06	No response required	
Developments in Aviation Security since the Committee's June 2004 <i>Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia</i> (Report 409)	04-12-06	Time has not expired	
<b>Publications (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series	29-05-06	02-11-06 <sup>14</sup>	No
<b>Science and Innovation (House, Standing)</b>			
Second report of the inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials	24-09-01	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Pathways to technological innovation	19-06-06	30-11-06 (interim)	No
<b>Transport and Regional Services (House, Standing)</b>			
Regional aviation and island transport services: Making ends meet	01-12-03	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No
Ship salvage	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Treaties (Joint, Standing)</b>			
The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (61st Report)	23-06-04	No response to date <sup>15</sup>	No
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (previously tabled in May and June 2004) (63 <sup>rd</sup> Report)	14-12-04	No response to date <sup>16</sup>	No
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (3) and 8 February 2005 (65 <sup>th</sup> Report)	20-06-05	10-08-06	No
Review of Treaty tabled on 29 November 2005 (71st Report)	27-02-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled on 29 November 2005 (2) (72nd Report)	28-03-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled in February 2006 (73rd Report)	10-05-06	No response required	
Review of Treaty tabled on 28 March 2006 (74th Report)	29-05-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled on 11 October 2005 (2), 28 February and 28 March 2006 (2) (75th Report)	14-08-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled on 28 March (3) and 10 May 2006 (76th Report)	16-08-06	No response required	
Review on Treaties tabled on 20 June and 8 August 2006 (77th Report)	09-10-06	No response required	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Treaty Scrutiny: A Ten Year Review (78th Report)	09-10-06	No response required	
Review of Treaties tabled on 10 May (2), 5 and 6 September 2006 (79th Report)	19-10-06	No response required	
Review of treaties tabled on 28 March (4) and 5 September (2) 2006 (80th Report)	19-10-06	Time has not expired	
Treaties tabled on 8 August 2006 (2) (81st Report)	06-12-06	Time has not expired	

**These notes reflect the response circulated by the Leader of the House on 7 December 2006 entitled "Government Responses to Parliamentary Committee reports. Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 22 June 2006".**

1. The date of tabling is the date the report was presented to the House of Representatives. In the case of joint committees, the date shown is the date of first presentation to either the House or the Senate. Reports published when the House (or Houses) are not sitting are tabled at a later date.
2. If the source for the date is not the *Votes and Proceedings* of the House of Representatives or the *Journals of the Senate*, the source is shown in an endnote.
3. The time specified is three months from the date of tabling.
4. Amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* reflecting the government's reforms were introduced to Parliament on 31 May 2006 and passed 17 August 2006. The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006* received Royal Assent on 5 September 2006. No further response is required.
5. The government response is being considered and will be tabled in due course.
6. The Government is currently consulting on a substantial number of initiatives to simplify corporate regulation. It is expected that some of these initiatives will impact on the regulation of proprietary companies. A response to the report will therefore be provided in due course.
7. The government is currently reviewing and consulting on a substantial number of initiatives to refine the regulation of financial services which take into account the recommendations made in this report. A response which takes into account the refinements will therefore be provided in due course.
8. The government is currently reviewing and consulting on a substantial number of initiatives to refine the regulation of financial services. It is expected that certain of these initiatives will have some bearing on the regulation of managed investments. A response to the report will therefore be provided in due course.
9. The response is being considered in conjunction with that for 'Money Matters in the Bush' (see endnote 5).
10. The government continues to respond to this report through changes to the Corporations Regulations and ongoing proposals to make further refinements to the regulation of financial services based on public comment. A final response to this report will be tabled following implementation of these changes.
11. A response is expected following the report of the Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee (CAMAC) on Corporate Social Responsibility.
12. As previously noted, the Numbers on the Run Review was followed up by the Australian National Audit Office in report No.47 of 2004-2005, which was tabled on 31 May 2005. No further response required.

13. House agreed to amendments to the standing and sessional orders implementing the recommendations of the committee.
14. Responses to recommendations 7, 10, 13, 14 & 19 by the Department of Finance and Administration and responses to recommendations 8 & 16 by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet were tabled in the House of Representatives on 2 November 2006 and tabled in the Senate on 9 November 2006. Recommendation 18 will be responded to in due course. Presiding Officer's response was tabled on 7 September 2006.
15. Legislation to give effect to the Free Trade Agreement has now been passed. The government has stated that no further response is required.
16. Defence has implemented recommendations 6 & 7. No further response is required.