

**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  
23 June 2005, the date of the last schedule, and 7 December 2005)

8 December 2005

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

On 8 December 2005, the Government presented its response to a schedule of outstanding Government responses to parliamentary committee reports tabled in the House of Representatives on 23 June 2005.

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 23 June 2005. 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 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.

8 December 2005

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	No response to date <sup>5</sup>	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>6</sup>	No
Getting water right(s) – The future of rural Australia	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>7</sup>	No
Taking control: a national approach to pest animals	28-11-05	Time has not expired	
<b>ASIO, ASIS and DSD (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Private review of agency security arrangements	13-10-03	No response to date <sup>8</sup>	No
Review of the listing of six terrorist organisations	07-03-05	No response required	
Review of the administration and expenditure for ASIO, ASIS and DSD	14-03-05	01-11-05	No
Review of the listing of seven terrorist organisations	09-08-05	No response required	
Review of the listing of four terrorist organisations	05-09-05	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>
Review of the Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2005	12-09-05	No response required	
ASIO's Questioning and Detention Powers - Review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of Division 3 Part III of the <i>ASIO Act 1979</i>	30-11-05	Time has not expired	
<b>Australian Crime Commission (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Cybercrime	24-03-04	No response to date <sup>9</sup>	No
Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	24-06-04	No response to date <sup>10</sup>	No
Report on the examination of the annual report for 2003-2004 of the Australian Crime Commission	22-06-05	No response required	
Supplementary report to the Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	11-08-05	No response to date	No
Review of the <i>Australian Crime Commission Act 2002</i>	10-11-05	Time has not expired	
<b>Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (House, Standing)</b>			
Connecting Australia! Wireless broadband	11-11-02	23-06-05	No
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>11</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>12</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>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>13</sup>	No
Inquiry into the review of the <i>Managed Investments Act 1998</i>	12-12-02	No response to date <sup>14</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>15</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>16</sup>	No
Report on the ATM fee structure	15-01-04	No response to date <sup>17</sup>	No
Corporations amendment regulations 2003	24-03-04	No response to date <sup>13</sup>	No
Corporations Amendment Regulations 7.1.29A, 7.1.35A and 7.1.40(h)	02-06-04	No response to date <sup>15</sup>	No
Corporate insolvency laws – A stocktake	30-06-04	13-10-05	No
Australian Accounting Standards tabled in compliance with the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> on 30 August and 16 November 2004	10-02-05	01-12-05	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission	12-05-05	No response required	
Exposure draft of the Corporations Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2005	16-06-05	No response to date <sup>18</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>
Property Investment Advice – Safe as Houses?	23-06-05	No response to date <sup>19</sup>	No
Timeshare: The Price of Leisure	05-09-05	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>20</sup>	No
Review of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 2003	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>21</sup>	No
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Annual Report 2004</i> (first report)	07-04-05	No response required	
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Annual Report 2004</i> (second report)	12-09-05	No response required	
<b>Education and Training (House, Standing)</b>			
Learning to work: Report on the inquiry into vocational education in schools	29-03-04	23-06-05	No
<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	Time has not expired	
<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>22</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>
Making it work: Inquiry into independent contracting and labour hire arrangements	17-08-05	No response to date	No
<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>22</sup>	No
Employment in the environment sector: Methods, measurements and messages	01-12-03	06-12-05	No
Sustainable cities	12-09-05	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	No response to date <sup>23</sup>	No
Every picture tells a story: Report on the inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation	29-12-03	23-06-05	No
<b>Family and Human Services (House, Standing)</b>			
Overseas Adoption in Australian: Report on the inquiry into adoption of children from overseas	21-11-05	Time has not expired	
<b>Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Near Neighbours - Good Neighbours: An inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Indonesia	31-05-04	08-09-05	No
Report of the Parliamentary delegation to the Gulf States	21-06-04	09-12-05	No
Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Strategy	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>24</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 human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region	24-06-04	15-09-05	Yes
Australia's engagement with the World Trade Organisation	30-06-04	No response to date <sup>25</sup>	No
Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with the Gulf States	07-03-05	01-12-05	No
Reform of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights	12-09-05	Time has not expired	
Australia's Human Rights Dialogue Process	12-09-05	Time has not expired	
Review of the Defence Annual Report 2003-04	10-10-05	Time has not expired	
Report of the Delegation to the United States 28 June to 13 July 2005	11-10-05	Time has not expired	
Australia's free trade agreements with Singapore, Thailand and the United States: progress to date and lessons for the future	07-11-05	Time has not expired	
<b>Health and Ageing (House, Standing)</b>			
Future Ageing: Report on a draft report of the 40 <sup>th</sup> Parliament: Inquiry into long term strategies to address the ageing of the Australian population over the next 40 years	07-03-05	No response required	
<b>Industry and Resources (House, Standing)</b>			
Exploring: Australia's future impediments to increasing investment in minerals and petroleum exploration in Australia	15-09-03	23-06-05	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>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>26</sup>	No
<b>Legal and Constitutional Affairs (House, Standing)</b>			
The third paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution	30-11-95	No response to date <sup>27</sup>	No
Modern-day usage of averments in customs prosecutions	31-05-04	No response to date <sup>28</sup>	No
Exposure draft of the Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment (Anti-avoidance and other measures Bill 2004)	23-07-04	09-08-05	No
Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime	11-08-04	No response to date <sup>29</sup>	No
Exposure Draft of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005	18-08-05	No response to date	No
<b>Migration (Joint, Standing)</b>			
To make a contribution: review of skilled migration	29-03-04	01-12-05	No
Report of the inspections of Baxter immigration detention facility and Port August residential housing project, April 2005	22-06-05	No response required	
Review of Audit Report No. 1 2005-2006: Management of Detention Centre Contracts Part B	05-12-05	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>National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)</b>			
In the pink or in the red? Health services on Norfolk Island	06-07-01	09-12-04	No
Norfolk Island electoral matters	26-08-02	No response to date <sup>30</sup>	No
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island	03-12-03	01-11-05	No
Norfolk Island – Review of the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of the Environment and Heritage (Australia’s external territories)	02-07-04	23-06-05	No
Indian Ocean Territories – Review of the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of the Environment and Heritage (Australia’s external territories)	31-08-04	18-08-05	No
Difficult Choices: Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority in determining the extent of redevelopment of the Pierces Creek Settlement in the ACT	31-08-04	15-09-05	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>31</sup>	No
Norfolk Island Financial Sustainability: The Challenge – Sink or Swim	01-12-05	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>Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Nineteenth Report: Second interim report for the s.206(d) Inquiry - Indigenous Land Use Agreements	26-09-01	02-11-05	No
The effectiveness of the National Native Title Tribunal	04-12-03	02-11-05	No
<b>Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Examination of Annual Reports 2003-2004	20-06-05	No response required	
<b>Procedure (House, Standing)</b>			
Balancing tradition and progress: Procedures for the opening of Parliament	27-08-01	23-06-05	No
Arrangements for second reading speeches	01-12-03	No response to date <sup>32</sup>	No
House Estimates: consideration of the annual estimates by the House of Representatives	13-10-03	No response to date <sup>33</sup>	No
Media coverage of House proceedings including the Chamber, Main committee and committees (Final report)	10-10-05	Time has not expired	
A history of the Procedure Committee on its 20th anniversary: Procedural reform in the House of Representatives 1985-2005	28-11-05	No response required	
Procedures relating to House Committees	05-12-05	07-12-05	Yes

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>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>34</sup>	No
Access of indigenous Australians to legal services (Report No. 403)	22-06-05	No response to date <sup>35</sup>	No
Review of Auditor-General's Reports 2003-2004: Third and Fourth Quarters; and First and Second Quarters of 2004-2005 (Report 404)	07-11-05	Time has not expired	
Annual report 2004-2005 (Report 405)	28-11-05	Time has not expired	
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	Time has not expired	
<b>Recent Australian Bushfires (House, Select)</b>			
A nation charred: Inquiry into the recent Australian bushfires	05-11-03	15-09-05	No
<b>Science and Innovation (House, Standing)</b>			
Science overcoming salinity: Coordinating and extending the science to address the nation's salinity problem	21-06-04	06-12-05	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>36</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>
National road safety – Eyes on the road ahead	21-06-04	07-12-05	No
Ship salvage	21-06-04	No response to date <sup>37</sup>	No
Train illumination: Inquiry into some measures proposed to improve train visibility and reduce level crossing accidents	24-06-04	07-12-05	No
<b>Treaties (Joint, Standing)</b>			
The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (61st Report)	23-06-04	No response to date	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>38</sup>	
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (3) and 8 February 2005 (65 <sup>th</sup> Report)	20-06-05	No response to date <sup>39</sup>	No
Review of treaties tabled 7 December 2004 (4), 15 March and 11 May 2005 (66 <sup>th</sup> Report)	17-08-05	No response to date	No
Review into Treaties tabled on 21 June 2005 (67 <sup>th</sup> Report)	12-09-05	No response required	
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (5) and 9 August 2005 (68 <sup>th</sup> Report)	07-11-05	No response required	
Treaties tabled on 13 September and 11 October 2005 (69 <sup>th</sup> Report)	05-12-05	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>
Treaty tabled on 9 November 2005 (70th Report)	06-12-05	Time has not expired	

---

**These notes reflect the response circulated by the Leader of the House on 23 June 2005 entitled "Government Responses to Parliamentary Committee reports. Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 8 December 2005".**

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. On 18 November 2005 the government announced further reforms to the Act. This concludes the government's consideration of the recommendations of the report.
5. A consolidated draft government response is being prepared following input from relevant agencies.
6. Outstanding issues arising from the interim report will be covered in the response to the final report.
7. The response is in the final stages of clearance and is expected to be tabled soon.
8. A response is being drafted for circulation to relevant agencies for comment.
9. The response is expected to be tabled shortly.
10. The response is in the final stages of clearance. It is expected the response will be tabled during the Autumn sittings 2006.
11. The government is finalising its response to the report in consultation with responsible agencies.
12. The government is continuing to consider its response in light of international developments, in particular, the review of the New Zealand Financial Reporting Act.
13. The government has responded in part to this report through changes to the Corporations Regulations and proposals to make further refinements to the regulation of financial services, which are currently being implemented. A combined response to this report and other reports by the Committee on certain financial service regulations, that takes into account these refinements, will be tabled following implementation of the changes of law.
14. The government is considering its response in the context of ongoing refinements to financial services regulation affecting the operation of managed investment schemes. A response will be provided in due course.
15. The government has responded in part to this report through changes to the Corporations Regulations. A combined response to this report and other reports by the committee on certain financial services regulations, that takes into account these refinements, will be tabled following implementation of the reforms to the law.

16. The response is being updated and will be finalised as soon as possible.
17. The response is to be combined with that for 'Money Matters in the Bush' and will be finalised as soon as possible.
18. The response is being prepared and will be tabled in due course.
19. The government will consider the recommendations of the Ministerial Council of Consumer Affairs working group investigation and a response will be tabled in due course.
20. A response is being redrafted and will be tabled in due course.
21. A draft response is currently being considered.
22. A response is being finalised and will be tabled in due course.
23. The Department of Health and Ageing is currently coordinating an updated draft response. The original draft response is being updated. The revised draft is expected to be considered by the government shortly.
24. The report is being finalised and will be tabled as soon as possible.
25. Statistical information for inclusion in the response is being reviewed and the response to the report will be tabled as soon as consultations have been completed.
26. The government is currently considering the amended draft response and it will be tabled as soon as possible.
27. The government indicated in the Response to the Speaker's Schedule of Outstanding Government Responses tabled on 23 June 2005 that it did not intend to respond to this report.
28. The response is in the final stages of clearance and is expected to be tabled shortly.
29. The response is expected to be finalised shortly.
30. A draft response is being cleared through government. Tabling is expected in the near future.
31. A response has been drafted and will be tabled in due course.
32. The government considers that the existing arrangements provide the opportunity for a significant debate on legislation and that they remain appropriate. Accordingly, the government does not support the recommendations of the report.
33. A response is being prepared and will be tabled as soon as possible.
34. The government is considering its response to outstanding recommendations and a response will be tabled in due course.
35. The response is in an advanced stage of preparation.

36. The government is currently considering its draft response.
37. The response will be finalised following completion of Australian Transport Council process, expected to be in November 2005.
38. Defence has implemented recommendations 6 and 7. No further response will be required.
39. A response is being considered and will be finalised shortly.