

**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
8 December 2004, the date of the last schedule, and 22 June 2005)

23 June 2005

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

On 23 June 2005, the Government presented its response to a schedule of outstanding Government responses to parliamentary committee reports tabled in the House of Representatives on 9 December 2004.

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 9 December 2004. 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.

23 June 2005

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (House, Standing)			
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 ⁴	No
Many ways forward: Report of the inquiry into capacity building and service delivery in indigenous communities	21-06-04	No response to date ⁵	No
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (House, Standing)			
Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities – Interim Report	05-05-04	No response to date ⁶	No
Getting water right(s) – The future of rural Australia	21-06-04	No response to date ⁷	No
ASIO, ASIS and DSD (Joint, Statutory)			
Private review of agency security arrangements	13-10-03	No response to date ⁸	No
Review of the listing of six terrorist organisations	07-03-05	No response to date	No
Review of the administration and expenditure for ASIO, ASIS and DSD	14-03-05	No response to date	No
Review of the listing of Tanzim Qa'idat al-jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (the Zarqawi network) as a terrorist organisation	25-05-05	No response required	
Annual report of Committee Activities 2004-2005	30-05-05	No response required	

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Australian Crime Commission (Joint, Statutory)			
Cybercrime	24-03-04	No response to date ⁹	No
Inquiry into the trafficking of women for sexual servitude	24-06-04	No response to date ¹⁰	No
Examination of the annual report for 2003-04 of the National Crime Authority and the Australian Crime Commission	24-06-04	No response required	
Report on the examination of the annual report for 2003-2004 of the Australian Crime Commission	22-06-05	Time has not expired	
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (House, Standing)			
Connecting Australia! Wireless broadband	11-11-02	No response to date ¹¹	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 ¹²	No
Corporations and Securities (Joint, Statutory)			
Report on aspects of the regulation of proprietary companies	08-03-01	No response to date ¹³	No
Corporations and Financial Services (Joint, Statutory)			
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 ¹⁴	No
Inquiry into the review of the <i>Managed Investments Act 1998</i>	12-12-02	No response to date ¹⁵	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
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 ¹⁶	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 ¹⁷	No
Report on the ATM fee structure	15-01-04	No response to date ¹⁸	No
Corporations amendment regulations 2003	24-03-04	No response to date ¹⁴	No
Corporations Amendment Regulations 7.1.29A, 7.1.35A and 7.1.40(h)	02-06-04	No response to date ¹⁶	No
CLERP (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003-Part 1: Enforcement, executive remuneration, continuous disclosure, shareholder participation and related matters	04-06-04	10-03-05	No
CLERP (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003-Part 2: Financial reporting and audit reform	15-06-04	10-03-05	No
Corporate insolvency laws – A stocktake	30-06-04	No response to date ¹⁹	No
Australian Accounting Standards tabled in compliance with the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> on 30 August and 16 November 2004	10-02-05	No response to date	No
Statutory oversight of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission	12-05-05	Time has not expired	
Exposure draft of the Corporations Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2005	16-06-05	Time has not expired	

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Economics, Finance and Public Administration (House, Standing)			
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 ²⁰	No
Rates and Taxes: A fair share for responsible local government	24-11-03	22-06-05	No
Review of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 2003	21-06-04	No response to date ²¹	No
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Annual Report 2003</i>	12-08-04	10-05-05	No
Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia <i>Annual Report 2004</i> (first report)	07-04-05	Time has not expired	
Education and Training (House, Standing)			
Learning to work: Report on the inquiry into vocational education in schools	29-03-04	No response to date ²²	No
Employment and Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation (House, Standing)			
Working for Australia's future: increasing participation in the work force	14-03-05	No response to date	No
Environment and Heritage (House, Standing)			
Public good conservation: Our challenge for the 21 st century	27-09-01	No response to date ²³	No
Employment in the environment sector: Methods, measurements and messages	01-12-03	No response to date ²⁴	No

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Family and Community Affairs (House, Standing)			
Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities	08-09-03	No response to date ²⁵	No
Every picture tells a story: Report on the inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation	29-12-03	No response to date ²⁶	No
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)			
Near Neighbours - Good Neighbours: An inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Indonesia	31-05-04	No response to date ²⁷	No
Report of the Parliamentary delegation to the Gulf States	21-06-04	No response to date	No
Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Strategy	21-06-04	No response to date ¹⁷	No
Inquiry into human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region	24-06-04	No response to date ²⁸	No
Australia's engagement with the World Trade Organisation	30-06-04	No response to date ²⁹	No
Review of the Defence Annual report 2002-2003	11-08-04	16-06-05	No
Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with the Gulf States	07-03-05	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Health and Ageing (House, Standing)			
Future Ageing: Report on a draft report of the 40 th 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	
Industry and Resources (House, Standing)			
Exploring: Australia's future impediments to increasing investment in minerals and petroleum exploration in Australia	15-09-03	No response to date ³⁰	No
Industry, Science and Resources (House, Standing)			
Getting a better return: Inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials second report	24-09-01	No response to date ¹⁷	No
Legal and Constitutional Affairs (House, Standing)			
The third paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution	30-11-95	No response to date ³¹	No
Modern-day usage of averments in customs prosecutions	31-05-04	No response to date ³²	No
Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment (Anti-avoidance and other measures Bill 2004)	23-07-04	No response to date ³³	No
Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime	11-08-04	No response to date ³⁴	No
Migration (Joint, Standing)			
To make a contribution: review of skilled migration	29-03-04	No response to date ³⁵	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Report of the inspections of Baxter immigration detention facility and Port August residential housing project, April 2005	22-06-05	Time has not expired	
National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)			
In the pink or in the red? Health services on Norfolk Island	06-07-01	No response to date	No
Norfolk Island electoral matters	26-08-02	No response to date ³⁶	No
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into Governance on Norfolk Island	03-12-03	No response to date ³⁷	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	No response to date ³⁷	No
A national capital, a place to live: Inquiry into the Role of the National Capital Authority	02-07-04	26-05-05	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	No response to date ³⁸	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	No response to date ³⁷	No
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund (Joint, Statutory)			
Nineteenth Report: Second interim report for the s.206(d) Inquiry - Indigenous Land Use Agreements	26-09-01	No response to date ³⁹	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
The effectiveness of the National Native Title Tribunal	04-12-03	No response to date ³⁹	No
Examination of Annual Reports 2002-2003	24-06-04	No response required	
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account (Joint, Statutory)			
Examination of Annual Reports 2003-2004	20-06-05	Time has not expired	
Procedure (House, Standing)			
Balancing tradition and progress: Procedures for the opening of Parliament	27-08-01	No response to date ⁴⁰	No
House Estimates: consideration of the annual estimates by the House of Representatives	13-10-03	No response to date ³⁷	No
Arrangements for second reading speeches	01-12-03	No response to date ⁴¹	No
Renaming the Main Committee: Celebrating the 10 th anniversary of the Main Committee	03-06-04	09-12-04	No
Arrangements for joint meetings with the Senate	21-06-04	09-12-04	No
Media coverage of House proceedings including the Chamber, Main committee and committees	09-08-04	No response required	
The anticipation rule	14-03-05	17-03-05 ⁴²	Yes

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Public Accounts and Audit (Joint, Statutory)			
Corporate governance and accountability arrangements for Commonwealth government business enterprises, December 1999 (Report No. 372)	16-02-00	No response to date ⁴³	No
Review of Independent Auditing by Registered Company Auditors (Report No. 391)	18-09-02	10-03-05	No
Annual Report 2003-2004 (Report No. 401)	11-08-04	No response required	.
Access of indigenous Australians to legal services (Report No. 403)	22-06-05	Time has not expired	.
Recent Australian Bushfires (House, Select)			
A nation charred: Inquiry into the recent Australian bushfires	05-11-03	No response to date ³⁷	No
Science and Innovation (House, Standing)			
Science overcoming salinity: Coordinating and extending the science to address the nation's salinity problem	21-06-04	No response to date ⁴⁴	No
Transport and Regional Services (House, Standing)			
Moving on intelligent transport systems	09-12-02	09-02-05	No
Regional aviation and island transport services: Making ends meet	01-12-03	No response to date ⁴⁵	No
National road safety – Eyes on the road ahead	21-06-04	No response to date ⁴⁶	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published ¹	Date of Government Response ²	Responded in Period Specified ³
Ship salvage	21-06-04	No response to date ⁴⁷	No
Train illumination	24-06-04	No response to date ⁴⁶	No
Treaties (Joint, Standing)			
Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 and the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Security Code (57 th Report)	04-12-03	16-06-05	No
The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (61 st Report)	23-06-04	No response to date ⁴⁸	No
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (previously tabled in May and June 2004) (63 rd Report)	14-12-04	No response to date	No
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (2) (64 th Report)	10-05-05	No response required	
Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004 (3) and 8 February 2005 (65 th Report)	20-06-05	Time has not expired	

These notes reflect the response circulated by the Leader of the House on 9 December 2004 entitled "Government Responses to Parliamentary Committee reports. Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 23 June 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. The government expects to consider broader reforms to the Act including land tenure proposals and to introduce amendments to the Act into the Parliament.
5. The government response to the report is well advanced with input from relevant agencies being received.
6. Outstanding issues arising from the interim report will be covered in the response to the final report.
7. A draft is in progress. A response will be tabled in due course.
8. Tabling of the response is expected to occur shortly.
9. The response is currently being considered by the government and is expected to be tabled in the near future. Due to the scope of Committee's recommendations, extensive consultation across government departments and agencies was required. This process, and the Federal Election in October 2004, delayed government consideration of the response.
10. The response has required significant consultation between Australian government agencies. That process was interrupted by the Federal Election and associated caretaker period. It is expected that the response will be tabled in the near future.
11. Since the release of the report the government has introduced a range of measures that have facilitated the use of wireless technologies to deliver broadband services. These measures include reductions in carrier licence fees, improved information for wireless operators and the launch of the Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS). Under HiBIS wireless providers are able to compete with other providers for over \$100 mill in incentives to improve access to broadband services in regional areas.

Given these developments and that in 2005 the government intends to introduce legislative amendments to the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* a response to the Productivity Commission Radiocommunications Inquiry and the Radiocommunications Review, the government does not plan to respond further to the report.

12. The government is continuing to prepare a response to the report, which concerns a broad range of issues.

13. The government is considering its response in light of the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards and work of the TransTasman Accounting Standards Advisory Group.
14. The government has responded in part to this report through changes to the Corporations Regulations and public proposals to make further refinements to the regulation of financial services. A combined response to this report and other reports by the Committee on certain financial services regulations taking into account this ongoing policy development will be tabled in due course.
15. The government is considering the recommendations in the context of recent corporate governance law reform and a response will be tabled in due course.
16. 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 taking into account these policy responses will be tabled in due course.
17. The response is being finalised and is to be tabled as soon as possible.
18. The response is to be combined with that for 'Money Matters in the Bush' and will be tabled as soon as possible.
19. On 22 March 2005, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon Chris Pearce MP, announced that the government would address the recommendations of the report in the context of developing an integrated set of proposals to improve the operation of Australia's insolvency laws.

The set of proposals will also include responses to issues raised by the James Hardie Special Commission of Inquiry and recent reports of the Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee in its reports on voluntary administration, corporate groups and the rehabilitation of large and complex enterprises.

The government expects to release proposals for consultation with stakeholders by the end of 2005.

20. The response is being updated and expected to be tabled in due course.
21. The government is giving consideration to the recommendations in this report. Since its release, there have been a number of developments in the policy areas relating to the recommendations, including the announcement by the Treasurer that the Australian government will amend the *Trade Practices Act 1974* to introduce criminal penalties for serious cartel conduct. The response that takes into account these recent developments will be provided in due course.
22. The response will be tabled as soon as possible.
23. A response has been drafted and will be tabled in due course.
24. A response is being finalised and is expected to be tabled shortly.
25. A draft response is currently being considered.
26. The Prime Minister made a statement in-principle in July 2004 responding to the report and included an allocation of \$397 million over four years in the 2005-06 Budget to support its response. The formal response is expected to be tabled in the near future.

27. All relevant portfolios have now updated their input and a consolidated response will be finalised as soon as possible.
28. A response to the report's recommendations have been developed and is currently being cleared with portfolios affected by the recommendations.
29. The response is being prepared and will be finalised as soon as possible.
30. The issues raised in the report coincided with those raised in the development of the *Minerals Exploration Action Agenda* (MEAA). The MEAA has been incorporated into the government's *Resources Exploration Strategy*, which was released on 2 July 2004, and constitutes the government's response to this report. The Chair of the Committee was advised of this in writing on 23 February 2005 by the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources. The government does not intend responding further to the report's recommendations.
31. The government does not propose to respond to this report at this time.
32. The response is in the final stages of clearance and is expected to be tabled soon.
33. The response is expected to be tabled shortly.
34. Preparation of the response is currently underway.
35. The response has been finalised and will be tabled shortly.
36. Consultation on the response for this report is underway.
37. A response is being prepared and will be tabled in due course.
38. A draft response is with portfolio Ministers for comment.
39. It is anticipated that the response will be tabled shortly.
40. The government considers that the current procedures for the opening of the Parliament continue to reflect Australia's parliamentary traditions and democratic heritage. Accordingly, the government does not propose to seek changes to existing procedures at this time.
41. 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 this report.
42. The House adopted sessional orders to implement recommendations of committee on 17 March 2005.
43. The government is considering its outstanding recommendations and a response will be tabled in due course.
44. The response is being considered by the relevant portfolios and will be tabled in due course.

45. The government is currently considering its response to this report. It is expected that a final response will be tabled in 2005.
46. The response is being finalised for tabling.
47. The response will be tabled following completion of Australian Transport Council processes.
48. Consultations with relevant portfolios are still proceeding. The response will be tabled as soon as consultations have been completed.