

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECTION COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 2

Consideration of bills

12 December 2013

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, Speaker
Members	Hon P Ruddock MP (Chief Government Whip)
	Mr C Hayes MP (Chief Opposition Whip)
	Mr M Coulton MP (Nationals Chief Whip)
	Mr S Buchholz MP
	Mr G Christensen MP
	Hon J Fitzgibbon MP
	Ms J Hall MP
	Ms N Marino MP
	Mr D Randall MP
	Ms J Ryan MP
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	Mr B Scott MP, Deputy Speaker

Secretary	Ms J Towner
Committee support	Mr J Rees
	Mr D Pecar
	Mr J Sherd
	Mrs A Fabbo

Report relating to the consideration of bills introduced 9 to 12 December 2013

1. The committee met in private session on 11 December 2013.

Referral of bill

2. The committee determined that the High Speed Rail Planning Authority Bill 2013 be referred to the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications for inquiry and report.

General principles relating to the Selection of Private Members' business

3. The Committee reports to the House that it has endorsed general principles relating to the selection of Private Members' Business as attached. The principles reflect those applied by the Selection Committees in the 43rd, 41st and earlier Parliaments, and by the Whips in the 42nd Parliament. The Committee recommends that the general principles be adopted by the House.

THE HON BRONWYN BISHOP MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

12 December 2013

General principles relating to the selection of private Members' business.

1. In formulating the priority to be given to items of private Members' business the Selection Committee shall have regard to:
 - (a) the importance of the subject;
 - (b) the current level of interest in the subject;
 - (c) the extent of the current discussion on the subject both in the Parliament and elsewhere;
 - (d) the extent to which the subject comes within the responsibility of the Commonwealth Parliament;
 - (e) the probability of the subject being brought before the House by other means within a reasonable time; and
 - (f) whether the subject is the same, or substantially the same, as another item of business which has been debated or on which the House has already made a decision in the same period of sittings and, if so, whether new circumstances exist.
2. The Committee shall accord priority to private Members' business:
 - (a) with regard to the numbers of Members affiliated with each party in the House;
 - (b) in a way which ensures that a particular Member or the Members who comprise the Opposition Executive do not predominate as the movers of the items selected;
 - (c) in a way which seeks to ensure balance is achieved over each period of sittings;
 - (d) in a manner that ensures appropriate participation by non-aligned Members.
3. When a private Member has the responsibility for the carriage of a bill transmitted from the Senate for concurrence, the bill shall be accorded priority following the question for the second reading being put to the House in the same way as a private Member's bill originating in the House is accorded priority by standing order 41.
4. Priority shall not be accorded to any item of private Members' business if the matter should be dealt with by the House in another, more appropriate, form of proceeding.
5. The general principles set out above shall be observed by the Selection Committee but nothing in the general principles shall be taken to prevent the Selection Committee departing from those general principles in order to meet circumstances, which, in its opinion, are unusual or special.
6. These general principles shall continue in effect until altered by the House following a report from this or a future Selection Committee.