

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 62

TUESDAY, 7 MAY 1991

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **DISTINGUISHED VISITOR:** Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Dubcek, Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, was within the precincts. With the concurrence of Members, the distinguished visitor was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Dr Blewett (Minister for Trade and Overseas Development) and Mr Hand (Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs), Senator Evans (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade) was performing Dr Blewett's duties and Ms Fatin (Minister for Local Government) was acting as Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs. Mr Hawke stated that Senator Evans would be represented in this House by Mr Duffy (Attorney-General).
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:  
 Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 25 of 1990-91—Australian Federal Police: Efficiency and effectiveness of fraud investigations.  
 Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:  
 (1) this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 25 of 1990-91;  
 (2) the report be printed; and  
 (3) the report be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Aboriginal Development Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for period 1 July 1989 to 4 March 1990—Erratum.  
 Aboriginal deaths in custody—Royal Commission—Report of the inquiry into the death of—  
 Muriel Gwenda Catheryn Binks.  
 Jabanardi (at Ti Tree) (NT/2).  
 John Peter Pat.

Deidre Abigail Short.  
Robert Joseph Walker.  
The man who died at—

Katherine on 21 November 1984 (NT/5).

The Royal Darwin Hospital on 2 April 1987 (NT/10).

Airlines Agreement Act—

Ansett Transport Industries Limited—Financial statements, including the auditor's report, for 1989-90.

Australian Airlines Limited and subsidiaries—Financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Australian Science and Technology Council Act—Australian Science and Technology Council—Report—An Australian international gravitational observatory: A case study for construction of large national facilities, dated March 1991.

Bankruptcy Act—Report for 1989-90—Errata.

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal employment opportunity program—Australian Telecommunications Corporation (Telecom)—Report for 1989-90.

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Reports—

No. 6—Recycling, dated 22 February 1991—

Volume I—Recycling in Australia.

Volume II—Recycling of products.

No. 8—Construction costs of major projects, dated 11 March 1991.

No. 9—The commercial tariff concession and by-law systems, dated 8 March 1991.

Kakadu Conservation Zone—Report to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs by the Hon. Justice D. G. Stewart, dated May 1991.

Resource Assessment Commission Act—Resource Assessment Commission—Kakadu Conservation Zone inquiry: Final report, dated May 1991—

Volume 1.

Volume 2.

War Crimes Act—Report on the operation of the Act, for 1989-90.

**7 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT COMMISSION—FINAL REPORT ON KAKADU CONSERVATION ZONE INQUIRY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Resource Assessment Commission Act—Resource Assessment Commission—Kakadu Conservation Zone inquiry: Final report, dated May 1991—

Volume 1.

Volume 2.

Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**8 KAKADU CONSERVATION ZONE—REPORT TO MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Kakadu Conservation Zone—Report to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs by the Hon. Justice D. G. Stewart, dated May 1991.

Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**9 ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY—ROYAL COMMISSION—REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the report of

the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody of the inquiry into the death of—

Muriel Gwenda Catheryn Binks.

Jabanardi (at Ti Tree) (NT/2).

John Peter Pat.

Deidre Abigail Short.

Robert Joseph Walker.

The man who died at—

Katherine on 21 November 1984 (NT/5).

The Royal Darwin Hospital on 2 April 1987 (NT/10).

Question—put and passed.

**10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—WATERFRONT SAVINGS:**

The House was informed that Mr Sharp had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s failure to deliver the essential savings on our waterfront for Australian exporters to compete in international markets”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sharp addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**11 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS:** Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

23 April 1991—Message No. 125—Social Security 1991.

24 April 1991—Message No. 126—

Employment, Education and Training Amendment 1991.

Taxation Laws Amendment 1991.

Trade Practices Amendment 1991.

Trusts (Hague Convention) 1991.

Sales Tax Laws Amendment (No. 1) 1991.

Sales Tax Laws Amendment (No. 2) 1991.

Higher Education Funding Amendment 1991.

States Grants (TAFE Assistance) Amendment 1991.

Occupational Superannuation Laws Amendment 1991.

Bounty (Citric Acid) 1991.

Health Insurance (Pathology Services) Amendment 1991.

**12 SELECTION COMMITTEE—AMENDED REPORT:** Mr R. F. Edwards (Chairman) presented the amended report of the Selection Committee relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 9 May 1991, and, by leave, moved—That the report be adopted in lieu of the report presented on 18 April 1991.

Question—put and passed.

**13 TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act about telecommunications, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

The time allowed to Mr Beazley by standing order 91 for his speech having expired—

*Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Free (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Minister for Transport and Communications completing his second reading speech.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Beazley concluded his speech.

*Paper:* Mr Beazley presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 14 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (APPLICATION FEES) BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications) presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of fees for certain applications made under the *Telecommunications Act 1991*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Beazley presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Telecommunications (Application Fees) 1991.

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Fees) 1991.

Telecommunications (Numbering Fees) 1991.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 15 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (NUMBERING FEES) BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications) presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of fees for the allocation of numbers for public telecommunications services.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 16 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CARRIER LICENCE FEES) BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications) presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of fees for general telecommunications licences and public mobile licences issued under the *Telecommunications Act 1991*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 17 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (UNIVERSAL SERVICE LEVY) BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy in connection with ensuring that standard telephone services, and payphones, are reasonably accessible to all people in Australia.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Beazley presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 18 AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation Limited to take over the undertakings and assets of Telecom and OTC, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Beazley presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 19 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1991:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to enact transitional provisions, and to repeal some Acts and amend others, because of the enactment of the *Telecommunications Act 1991*, the *Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation Act 1991* and associated Acts.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Beazley presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 20 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1990-91:** 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.

*Paper:* Mr Aldred, by leave, presented the following paper:

Australian Defence Force ready reserve service—Copy of message, dated 22 February 1991.

Debate continued.

Mr Smith moved—That Mr Tuckey be granted an extension of time.

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

- 21 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 May 1991:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act—Declaration pursuant to section 9 relating to significant Aboriginal areas, Northern Territory.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 62.

Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act—Amendments to general conditions, dated 23 February 1991.

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 90.

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 74.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals for the collection of information—1991—

No. 5—1991 census of population and housing.

No. 6—Topic to be included as a supplement to the monthly labour force survey: Consumers and non-consumers of culture/leisure industry products.

No. 7—Topic to be included as a supplement to the monthly labour force survey: Multiple jobholding.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 92.

Bounty (Citric Acid) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 87.

Broadcasting (Limited Licences) Fees Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 80.

Cash Transaction Reports Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 89.

Child Support (Assessment) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 81.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—  
Parts—

- 20—Amendment, dated 30 April 1991.
- 40—Amendment, dated 24 April 1991.
- 82—Amendment, dated 24 April 1991.
- 101—Amendment, dated 3 May 1991.

Commonwealth Banks Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 93.

Commonwealth Employees' Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—  
Declarations and specifications—Notices—1991—Nos. 2, 3.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 76, 77.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—1991—

- No. 8—Rates of Travelling Allowance—Portugal and other allowances.
- No. 11—Rates of Travelling Allowance—Jamaica and other allowances.
- No. 13—Aide-de-Camp Allowance and other allowances.
- No. 14—Outfit Allowance for Special Appointments (Repeal).
- No. 36—Rates of Travelling Allowance—Iran and other allowances.
- No. 37—Rental and utilities contribution.
- No. 38—Isolated Establishment Allowance.
- No. 39—Rates of Travelling Allowance—Israel and other allowances.

Designs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 65.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1991—  
No. 2—Export Control (Mung Beans).

Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1991,  
No. 70.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991,  
No. 63.

Health Insurance Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 82, 83, 86.

Statement of particulars of ministerial determination authorised under  
section 106AA, relating to Dr Vincent Chiu, dated 17 April 1991.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations—

1990—

- No. T31—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Final  
Supplementation Adjustment for 1989).
- No. T32—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Staff  
Development Fund).
- No. T33—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Early  
Retirement).
- No. T34—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes.
- No. T35—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Final  
Supplementation Adjustment for 1989).
- No. T36—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Early  
Retirement Assistance).
- No. T37—Grants in respect of Teaching Hospitals.
- No. T38—Grants in respect of Drug and Alcohol.
- Nos. T39, T40 and T41—Grants for Building Projects.

1991—

- No. T11—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Distance  
Education Centres).
- Nos. T12, T13 and T14—Grants for Expenditure for Operating  
Purposes.
- Nos. T15 and T16—Grants in respect of Teaching Hospitals.
- Nos. T17 and T18—Grants for Building Projects.
- No. T19—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Final  
Adjustment for Overseas Students in 1990).
- No. T20—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes.

- No. T21—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Final Adjustment for Overseas Students in 1990).
- No. T22—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Funding arrangements for Modern Greek).
- No. T23—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Distance Education Centres).
- No. T24—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Adjustment relating to early retirement advance for 1990).
- No. T25—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Adjustment for student load in fees-approved postgraduate courses).
- No. T26—Grants for Expenditure for Operating Purposes (Adjustment relating to early retirement advance in 1989).
- Industrial Relations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 73.
- Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of land acquired by agreement authorised under—
- Subsection 40 (1).
- Subsection 125 (3).
- Live-stock Slaughter Levy Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 67.
- Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 88.
- Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 66.
- Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 69.
- Nursing Homes Assistance Act—Notice for the purposes of paragraphs 13 (1) (a) and (d), dated 28 March 1991.
- Petroleum Excise (Prices) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 68.
- Petroleum Retail Marketing Sites Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 72.
- Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 75, 91.
- Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following sections, subsections and paragraphs of Acts shall come into operation—
- AUSSAT Amendment Act 1990*—Section 6—24 April 1991.
- Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 1991*—Section 23, paragraph 30 (b), subsection 61 (2) and sections 62, 63, 67 and 73—29 April 1991.
- ICSID Implementation Act 1990*—Provisions, other than Part 1—1 June 1991.
- Public Service Act—Determinations—1991—Nos. 15, 16, 17, 31, 38, 40, 108, 109, 119, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137.
- Quarantine Act—Quarantine Proclamation No. 119P, dated 18 April 1991.
- Radiocommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 78.
- Social Security Act—Determination of guidelines under subsection 19(4B)—1991—No. 1.
- Superannuation Benefits (Supervisory Mechanisms) Act—Determination—1991—No. 3.
- Television Licence Fees Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 79.
- Therapeutic Goods Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 84.
- Therapeutic Goods (Charges) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 85.
- Trade Marks Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 64.

**ATTENDANCE:** All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Blewett, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Gorman\*, Mr Hand, Mr Holding, Mr Langmore, Mr Lee, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Walker.

\*On leave

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**L. M. BARLIN**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives