

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 108

TUESDAY, 9 MAY 2000



1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs) was acting Minister for Family and Community Services and would answer questions in relation to the Family and Community Services portfolio, other than in relation to matters within the responsibility of the Minister for Community Services.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

4 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1999-2000—Performance audits—

No. 40—Tactical fighter operations: Department of Defence.

No. 41—Commonwealth emergency management arrangements.

Severally ordered to be printed.

5 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly reports of the Chief Executive Officer—

For period 1 July to 30 September 1999.

For period 1 October to 31 December 1999.

Federal Office of Road Safety (FORS)—Report—Investigation into the Specification of Heavy Trucks and Consequent Effects on Truck Dynamics and Drivers (Final).

Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement—Commonwealth and Tasmanian Government Implementation Reports 1999.

6 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report of the Chief Executive Officer—For period 1 October to 31 December 1999.

Federal Office of Road Safety (FORS)—Report—Investigation into the Specification of Heavy Trucks and Consequent Effects on Truck Dynamics and Drivers (Final).

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

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr K. J. Thomson had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s implementation of the GST, and its implications for the management of the Australian Taxation Office, the ACCC and the Australian Customs Service”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr K. J. Thomson addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 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:

19 April 2000—Message No. 188—

Adelaide Airport Curfew 2000.

Census Information Legislation Amendment 2000.

Health Insurance Amendment (Diagnostic Imaging Services) 2000.

Primary Industries (Excise) Levies (GST Consequential Amendments) 2000.

Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Amendment 2000.

3 May 2000—Message—

No. 189—

Albury-Wodonga Development Amendment 2000.

Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation Amendment (Funding and Wool Tax) 2000.

Aviation Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2000.

Child Support Legislation Amendment 2000.

Fisheries Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2000.

Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Amendment 2000.

No. 190—

Interstate Road Transport Amendment 2000.

Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment 2000.

Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Amendment 2000.

Taxation Laws Amendment (No. 5) 2000.

A New Tax System (Tax Administration) (No. 1) 2000.

A New Tax System (Family Assistance and Related Measures) 2000.

No. 191—

Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment 2000.

Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment 2000.

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment 2000.

Appropriation (No. 3) 1999-2000.

Appropriation (No. 4) 1999-2000.

Appropriation (Dr Carmen Lawrence's Legal Costs) 1999-2000.

9 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Thursday, 11 May 2000, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

10 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 29 May 2000.

11 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—PAPER

Mr Charles (Chair), by leave, made a statement concerning the recommendations of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on the draft budget estimates for the Australian National Audit Office—

and, by leave, presented the following paper:

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—Draft budget estimates for the Australian National Audit Office—Statement by Mr Charles (Chair), 9 May 2000.

12 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 11) 1999

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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr K. J. Thomson, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words:

“whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House expresses its concern with:

- (1) the delay in the Government bringing this legislation before the Parliament;
- (2) problems which have come to light recently in relation to the administration of the Australian Taxation Office;

- (3) the Government's misleading claims for its taxation proposals;
- (4) the problems that exist in the implementation of the various new taxation arrangements;
- (5) the reluctance of the Government to effectively tackle tax avoidance in Australia;
- (6) the Australian Taxation Office's role in the implementation of the new taxation arrangements; and
- (7) the underlying unfairness and complexity of the new taxation arrangements"—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 8) 1999

Message No. 368, 13 April 2000, from the Senate was reported returning the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 8) 1999 and acquainting the House that the Senate does not insist on amendments Nos 8, 11 to 14, 17 and 18 made by the Senate to which the House of Representatives had insisted on disagreeing, and had made amendments in place of its amendments Nos 8, 11 to 13 and 17 and requests the concurrence of the House in the amendments made by the Senate in place of amendments Nos 8, 11 to 13 and 17.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—JURISDICTION OF COURTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

13 April 2000—Message No. 367—Jurisdiction of Courts Legislation Amendment 2000.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), Senate amendments Nos 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were agreed to, after debate.

On the motion of Mr McClelland, Senate amendments Nos 2, 4 and 7 were amended by Opposition amendments (1), (2) and (3) respectively.

On the motion of Mr McClelland, Senate amendments Nos 2, 4 and 7, as amended, were agreed to.

15 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED EXPENDITURE AND APPROPRIATION FOR YEAR 2000-2001—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2000-2001—BUDGET SPEECH

Message No. 192, 5 May 2000, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 2001; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual service of the Government, and for related purposes.

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Costello moved—That the Bill be now read a second time, and delivered the budget speech.

Debate adjourned (Mr Beazley—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

16 PAPERS

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following papers:

Budget strategy and outlook 2000-01.

Budget measures 2000-01.

Federal financial relations 2000-01.

Agency resourcing 2000-01.

Severally ordered to be printed.

17 MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following ministerial statements:

Australia's overseas aid program 2000-01, 9 May 2000.

The future together: Indigenous-specific measures in the 2000-01 budget, 9 May 2000.

Regional Australia: Making a difference, 9 May 2000.

Investing in our natural and cultural heritage: The Commonwealth's environment expenditure 2000-01, 9 May 2000.

Strengthening our commitment to women, 9 May 2000.

Agriculture: Advancing Australia, 9 May 2000.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED EXPENDITURE AND APPROPRIATION FOR YEAR 2000-2001—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2000-2001

Message No. 193, 5 May 2000, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 2001; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure, and for related purposes.

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

19 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED EXPENDITURE AND APPROPRIATION IN RELATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS FOR YEAR 2000-2001—APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 1) 2000-2001

Message No. 194, 5 May 2000, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 2001; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for expenditure in relation to the Parliamentary Departments, and for related purposes.

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for expenditure in relation to the Parliamentary Departments, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

20 **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 8.07 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.



PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 May 2000:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 49.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal 2000 No. 7.

Australian National University Act—Statutes—Nos 260, 261, 263, 264, 265, 266.

Christmas Island Act—Ordinances—2000 No. 1.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—2000—

Amendments—

Part 39-105—31(2) March, 4(9), 5(2), 7(7), 11, 27(4) April.

Part 39-106—20 April.

Part 39-107—27 April.

Exemptions—No. CASA EX26.

Instruments—Nos CASA 95, CASA 114, CASA 127.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinances 2000 No. 1.

Commonwealth Electoral Act and Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 47.

Commonwealth Places (Mirror Taxes) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 66.

Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 50.

Currency Act—Determinations 2000 No. 4.

Dairy Produce Act—Scheme—2000 Dairy Structural Adjustment Program.

Defence Act—

Determinations under section 52—2000—No. 1.

Determinations under section 58B—2000—Nos 6, 7, 8.

Regulations—Statutory Rules No. 67.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Prescribed Goods (General) Amendment Order 2000 (No. 1).

Federal Court of Australia Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 45.

Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 53, 54.

Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 56.

Fisheries Management Act and Fishing Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 57, 58.

Health Insurance Act—

Determinations—2000—Health Insurance (Professional Services Review—Sampling Methodology) (No. 1).

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 59, 60, 61.

High Court of Australia Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 46.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations—

1999 No. T22

2000 No. T8.

Home and Community Care Act—Home and Community Care Agreement with Tasmania Government—Amending Agreement, 23 February 2000.

Immigration (Education) Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 63.

Migration Act—

Certificates under section 502, 10 and 11 April 2000.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 52, 62, 64.

Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 65.

Military Superannuation and Benefits Act—Declaration—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 55.

National Health Act—

Declarations—2000—Nos PB 4, PB 5, PB 6.

Determinations—2000—Nos PIB 4, PIB 5, PB 7.

Radiocommunications Act—Declaration and Regulation Impact Statement—2000 Spectrum Re-allocation.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 2000 No. 2.

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—2000—Nos GSTR 6 (Addendum), GSTR 8, GSTR 9, PR 42, PR 43, PR 44, PR 45, PR 46, PR 47, PR 48, PR 49, PR 50, TD 17, TD 18, TR 7.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 48.

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 51.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Crosio, Mr Schultz and Dr Theophanous.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives