

2002

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 54

MONDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2002

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Baird presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Enterprising Australia—Planning, preparing and profiting from trade and investment—

Report, October 2002.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Baird moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Baird was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Bartlett (Chair) presented the following papers:

Education and Training—Standing Committee—Boys—Getting it right: The education of boys—

Report, October 2002.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Bartlett moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Bartlett was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Jull presented the following paper:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Visit to Australian Forces deployed to the International Coalition Against Terrorism: Parliament's Watching Brief on the War on Terrorism—Report, October 2002.

Ordered to be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Jull moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Jull was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Neville presented the following paper:

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee—Striking the Right Balance: Draft Amendment 39, National Capital Plan—Report, incorporating a dissenting report, October 2002.

Ordered to be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Neville moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Neville was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

8 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

9 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr I. E. Macfarlane (Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 1, private Members' business, given by Mr McClelland and accorded priority for this sitting, to be presented by Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition).

Question—put and passed.

10 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (EMERGENCY SERVICES) BILL 2002

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, and for related purposes.

Mr Crean made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

11 PLASTIC BAG LEVY (ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION) BILL 2002

Mr Andren, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the assessment and collection of a levy on the use of plastic bags at retail points of sale.

Mr Andren made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper

Mr Andren, by leave, presented the following paper:

Plastic Bag Levy Imposition Bill 2002.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

12 PLASTIC BAG (MINIMISATION OF USAGE) EDUCATION FUND BILL 2002

Mr Andren, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the establishment of a fund for the purpose of education about plastic bag damage to the environment, and for related purposes.

Mr Andren made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

13 FUEL QUALITY STANDARDS (RENEWABLE CONTENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL) AMENDMENT BILL 2002

Mr Katter, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* to regulate the amount of renewable fuel in motor vehicle fuel, and for related purposes.

Mr Katter made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

14 HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

Mr Baird, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) condemns the sentencing of Amina Lawal to death by stoning by Shari'ah Courts in the Katsina province of Nigeria, for allegedly committing adultery and bearing a child out of wedlock;
- (2) registers its strong opposition to all similar extreme sentences that discriminate against women; and
- (3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to do everything within its power to protect the basic human rights of Amina Lawal and all its citizens.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Paper

Mr Forrest, by leave, presented the following paper:

Harvesting the Skies—Report, including CD-ROM, prepared as a result of study tour of the United States to inspect cloud seeding programs in the State of Texas in July 2002, John Forrest, Member for Mallee, September 2002.

Debate continued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

16 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Tuesday, 22 October 2002, at 4 p.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

17 INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES—STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had nominated Mr Fitzgibbon to be a member of the Standing Committee on Industry and Resources in place of Mr Byrne.

Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That Mr Byrne be discharged from the Standing Committee on Industry and Resources and that, in his place, Mr Fitzgibbon be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

18 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Ms J. I. Bishop (Chair) presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—48th report—Treaties tabled in August and September 2002—Report, October 2002.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Ms J. I. Bishop, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

19 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 17 October 2002, were reported:

- (a) transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate approving the proposal by the Joint House Department to construct a roof extension to the gardeners' compound, to protect the new vehicle washdown bay from weather—Message No. 125; and
- (b) returning the following Bills without amendment:
 - No. 128—Space Activities Amendment 2002.
 - No. 129—Research Agencies Legislation Amendment 2002.

20 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (FAIR DISMISSAL) BILL 2002 [NO. 2]

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 McClelland, 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:

- (1) confirms that the protection from being unfairly dismissed is a fundamental safety net issue for Australian workers and their families irrespective of the size of the business in which they are employed;
- (2) notes that the Australian Labor Party, in Opposition and as a future Government, is committed to working with small business, employees and peak bodies to make unfair dismissal laws more effective by addressing procedural complexities and costs; and
- (3) condemns the government for:
 - (a) promoting socially divisive policies for its political purposes;
 - (b) using the issue of unfair dismissal to deflect criticism of the fact that its taxation policies have tied up small business in an unprecedented level of complexity and red tape;
 - (c) proposing legislation that would actually expose small business to other areas of more complex and costly litigation;
 - (d) undermining the security that unfair dismissal laws have given Australian workers and their families;
 - (e) failing to assist small business to develop effective human resource strategies in terms of the selection, ongoing training, supervision and management of employees; and
 - (f) failing to heed calls from the small business community for a more constructive approach to the issue of unfair dismissal that is likely to result in uniform national standards underpinned by the concept of a ‘fair go all round’ ”—

Debate resumed.

21 **ADJOURNMENT**

It being approximately 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.



PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 October 2002:

Australian Research Council Act—Determination—2002 No. 14.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—

Exemptions—2002 Nos CASA EX26, CASA EX31.

Instruments—2002 Nos CASA 612, CASA 613, CASA 614.

Criminal Code Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2002 Nos 248, 249.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton*, Ms Burke, Mr Entsch, Mrs May*, Ms O'Byrne*, Mr Scott*, Mr M. A. J. Vaile and Ms Worth*.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives