

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECTION COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 29

Committee and delegation business

and

private Members' business

24 March 2021

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Hon A. D. H. Smith MP, Speaker
Members	Mr B van Manen MP (Chief Government Whip)
	Mr C Hayes MP (Chief Opposition Whip)
	Hon D Drum MP (Chief Nationals Whip)
	Mr R Broadbent MP
	Ms N Flint MP
	Ms P Murphy MP
	Mr K O'Dowd
	Mr R Ramsey MP
	Ms J Ryan MP
	Ms R Sharkie MP
	Ms A Stanley MP
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	Mr L O'Brien MP, Deputy Speaker

Secretary	Mr G Worthington
Committee support	Mrs L Long
	Mr D Pecar
	Mr G Taylor

Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation business and of private Members' business

1. The Committee met in private session on Tuesday, 23 March 2021.
2. The Committee deliberated on items of private Members' business items listed on the Notice Paper and notices lodged on Tuesday, 23 March 2021, and determined the order of precedence and times on Wednesday, 12 May 2021, as follows:

Items for Federation Chamber (10.30 am to 1 pm)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices

1 MR BURNS: To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises that every Australian should have access to safe and secure housing;
- (2) notes that:
 - (a) the rate of home ownership continues to decline due to this Government's inaction and lack of leadership on federal housing policy;
 - (b) the rising cost of rent is pushing more Australians into rental stress;
 - (c) more investment in social housing is needed immediately to address the growing waitlists and increasing number of people facing homelessness; and
 - (d) the homelessness sector is desperate for more funding to support those needing crisis accommodation, especially women fleeing domestic and family violence; and
- (3) calls on the Government to take responsibility and implement policies that respond to the serious issues facing access to safe and secure housing in Australia.

(Notice given 23 March 2021.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Burns — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

2 DR ALLEN: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the Government’s child care support during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in Victoria, ensured childcare was available to families who needed it; and
 - (b) nearly \$3 billion was provided to support the early childhood education and care sector during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic—protecting the sector from imminent collapse;
- (2) acknowledges a record \$10.3 billion is being provided to subsidise childcare fees, putting more money back in the pockets of Australian families; and
- (3) recognises that quality, affordable child care is available for families now because of the Government’s efforts to back the sector in 2020.

(Notice given 22 February 2021.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Allen — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

Orders of the day

1 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES: Resumption of debate
(from 15 March 2021) on the motion of Mr Hill—That this House:

- (1) recognises that after over seven years of this Government, Australia is falling behind the rest of the world on numerous key measures of economic and social success;
- (2) notes that, in relation to:
 - (a) the economy, even before the COVID-19 pandemic the Government had badly mismanaged the economy with reputable data and global rankings showing that:
 - (i) real wages in Australia were 0.7 per cent lower in 2019 compared to 2013, with Australia ranked third last out of 35 OECD countries to wage growth;
 - (ii) over eight years of the current Government, Australia’s productivity rate has been steadily declining, from 2013 when Australia ranked tenth among 34 OECD nations, to 2018 when Australia ranked fifth last;
 - (iii) Australian household debt as a share of GDP sits at 119.4 per cent of GDP, the second highest rate out of 41 countries assessed;
 - (iv) Australia is now the third most unaffordable housing market within the OECD; and
 - (v) Australia is lagging behind in the jobs recovery from this recession;
 - (b) education outcomes:

- (i) Australian children’s educational outcomes have slipped in both national and international terms, with Australia slipping in science and mathematics outcomes; and
 - (ii) OECD data confirms Australia has high tertiary tuition costs by global standards with the average annual borrowing by Australian students in tertiary programs rising by 36.7 per cent in just four years;
- (c) environmental outcomes:
- (i) Australia’s rate of greenhouse gas emissions per capita has been the highest in the world;
 - (ii) Australia ranks second worst globally for government climate policy;
 - (iii) by 2018 Australia ranked 18 out of 25 of the world’s top energy-consuming countries with sharp declines from 2014 and 2016; and
 - (iv) Australia has the second highest level of biodiversity deterioration in the world; and
- (d) numerous other measures, Australia is falling behind and ranks poorly, for instance:
- (i) First Nations Australians have the lowest life expectancy amongst First Nations people globally;
 - (ii) Australia now ranks only 8 out of 11 high-income countries for healthcare affordability;
 - (iii) Australia now ranks sixth worst in the OECD for obesity rates;
 - (iv) Australia’s global ranking for the proportion of women in the lower house of the national parliament fell from a high of thirty-second place in 2010 to forty-eighth place in 2019, noting that only 23 per cent of the entire coalition Government party room are women;
 - (v) Australia is ranked sixty-first globally for fixed broadband speeds;
 - (vi) investment in research and development in Australia has fallen significantly as a percentage of GDP under the current Government; and
 - (vii) Australia has become more corrupt under this Prime Minister, slipping to eleventh place on the Corruption Perception Index;
- (3) acknowledges that with a possible federal election this year, Australians have a right to question:
- (a) how well they are doing under this visionless Government; and
 - (b) whose side the Government is on; and
- (4) condemns the Government for spending \$1 billion of taxpayer funds on government advertising, racking up over one trillion dollars’ worth of debt with nothing to show for it and wasting the economic recovery.

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

All Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking = 8 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

Notices – continued

3 MR FALINSKI: To move—That this House:

- (1) welcomes that:
 - (a) Australia strengthened its position as a renewable energy powerhouse in 2020; and
 - (b) the Clean Energy Regulator estimates that a record 7.0 gigawatts of new renewable capacity was installed in 2020; and
- (2) acknowledges that Australia is a world leader in renewable energy with:
 - (a) one in four Australian homes having solar—the highest uptake of household solar in the world; and
 - (b) \$7.7 billion, or \$299 per person, invested in 2020 in renewable energy—placing us ahead of countries like Canada, Germany, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and the United States on a per person basis.

(Notice given 22 February 2021.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 1 pm.

Speech time limits —

Mr Falinski — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking = 8 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

Items for Federation Chamber (4.45 pm to 7.30 pm)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices – continued

4 DR HAINES: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that the:
 - (a) report, *Regions at the Ready: Investing in Australia's Future*, by the House of Representatives Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation, and presented to the House on 28 June 2018, called on the Government to develop, by July 2020, a comprehensive Regional Australia White Paper, following a Green Paper public consultation process;
 - (b) Strategic Regional Growth Expert Panel's report *Australia's Regions: Investing in Their Future*, delivered to the Government on 29 March 2019, re-iterated the call for the Government to produce this Regional Australia White Paper by July 2020;
 - (c) Government refused to publicly release the *Australia's Regions: Investing in Their Future* report for over a year until forced to do so through a Senate order in July 2020;

- (d) Government has made no commitment and no progress to developing such a White Paper and that therefore the Government still lacks any comprehensive strategy for the development of regional Australia;
 - (e) *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998* involves no requirement for the Government to systematically assess the impact of its policies and initiatives on regional Australia; and
 - (f) Charter of Budget Honesty Amendment (Rural and Regional Australia Statements) Bill 2021 would establish a requirement for the Treasurer to:
 - (i) publicly release and table a rural and regional Australia statement, outlining key challenges and opportunities for rural and regional Australia, with each budget economic and fiscal outlook report and each mid-year economic and fiscal outlook report; and
 - (ii) publish a national White Paper for rural and regional Australia within 24 months of the commencement of the Bill; and
- (2) calls on the Government to immediately commence a process for a Regional Australia White Paper, which will:
- (a) involve deep and broad public consultation through a Green Paper process;
 - (b) involve cross-parliamentary engagement with a view to securing broad parliamentary support;
 - (c) outline a long-term vision for rural and regional Australia to capture significant opportunities including, but not limited to, agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, manufacturing, health and social care, and education and training; and
 - (d) be completed, and released publicly, by no later than 1 July 2022.
- (Notice given 22 March 2021.)

Time allotted — 50 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Haines — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 10 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

5 MRS ARCHER: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that as an island nation, Australians have a deep affinity to our oceans and waterways and that the ocean shapes our climate and weather, provides us with natural resources, and is essential to our wellbeing;
- (2) acknowledges that when our ocean is protected and sustainably managed, it has the potential to deliver significant economic and social benefits and that by 2025, ocean industries are projected to contribute around \$100 billion each year to our economy;
- (3) further notes that the 2020-21 Budget contained a new Oceans Package made up of:
 - (a) \$14.8 million to tackle the marine impacts of ghost nets and plastic litter;
 - (b) \$28.3 million to enhance management of Australian marine parks;

- (c) \$20 million through the Relief and Recovery Fund to re-establish native oyster reefs at 11 sites across the country; and
- (d) \$4.2 million for international blue carbon and rainforest partnerships; and
- (4) commends the Government for reaffirming Australia's status as a global leader on ocean management.

(Notice given 22 February 2021.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mrs Archer — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

6 DR FREELANDER: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) under this Government, out-of-pocket expense for patients accessing health care have soared;
 - (b) out of hospital, out-of-pocket costs for patients accessing a general practitioner have increased by 37.18 per cent Australia-wide since the Coalition came into office;
 - (c) out of hospital, out-of-pocket costs for patients accessing specialists have increased by 54.14 per cent;
 - (d) out of hospital, out-of-pocket costs for patients accessing anaesthetics have increased by 51.84 per cent; and
 - (e) out of hospital, out-of-pocket costs for patients accessing radiotherapy and therapeutic nuclear medicine have increased by 195.96 per cent;
- (2) condemns the Government for allowing out-of-pocket health expenses to soar; and
- (3) calls on the Government to act urgently to address the inequity of access to high level healthcare in Australia.

(Notice given 16 February 2021.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Freeland — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

7 MRS WICKS: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that Australia’s Technology Investment Roadmap:
 - (a) is a comprehensive plan to invest in the technologies we need to bring emissions down, here and around the world;
 - (b) will accelerate technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, soil carbon measurement, low-carbon materials like steel and aluminium and long duration energy storage; and
 - (c) will support 130,000 new jobs by 2030 and maintain Australia’s position as a world leading exporter of food, fibre, minerals and energy; and
- (2) welcomes the Government’s focus on technology, not taxes to secure affordable, reliable energy while at the same time reducing emissions.

(Notice given 22 February 2021.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members’ business time prior to 7.30 pm.

Speech time limits —

Mrs Wicks — 10 minutes.

Next Member speaking — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 1 x 10 mins + 7 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

THE HON A. D. H. SMITH MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

24 March 2021