

2008-09

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 84

MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2009

1 The House met, at 12 noon, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS—PRESENTED BY SPEAKER

The Speaker presented copies of the terms of the following private Members' motions:

Mr Forrest—Akha people (*see item No. 7, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*).

Mr Adams—Microbrewers (*see item No. 8, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*).

Mr Briggs—Water crisis (*see item No. 9, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*).

Mr C. R. Thomson—Nation building infrastructure policies (*see item No. 10, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*).

In accordance with standing order 41(h) the motions were made orders of the day and referred to the Main Committee.

3 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 12 March 2009, were reported:

(1) returning the following bills without amendment:

No. 230—Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 6) 2009;

No. 231—Tax Agent Services 2008;

No. 232—Federal Financial Relations 2009; and

No. 233—Federal Financial Relations (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) 2009; and

(2) informing the House that Senator Arbib had been discharged from attendance on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Message No. 234.

4 CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Government Whip had nominated Mr Murphy to be a member of the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts in place of Mrs D'Ath.

Mr Combet (Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change), by leave, moved—That Mrs D'Ath be discharged from the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts and that, in her place, Mr Murphy be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

5 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (POLITICAL DONATIONS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2009

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.

Mr Neumann addressing the House—

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 97, Mr Neumann was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member directed to leave

At 3.16 p.m. the Member for Fadden (Mr Robert) was directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for disorderly behaviour, and he accordingly left the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

7 MEMBER DIRECTED TO LEAVE THE CHAMBER

At 3.46 p.m. the Member for Sturt (Mr Pyne) was directed, under standing order 94, to leave the Chamber for one hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly left the Chamber.

8 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were presented:

Commonwealth Grants Commission—State revenue sharing relativities—2009 update, incorporating a corrigendum.

Sydney Airport Demand Management Act—Quarterly report on movement cap for Sydney airport for the period 1 October to 31 December 2008.

Telecommunications Act 1997—Report—Funding of research and consumer representation in relation to telecommunications for 2007-08.

Treaties—Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis, regulation impact statement and annexures—Agreement establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand free trade area.

9 DOCUMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT

Mr Albanese (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following document:

Commonwealth Grants Commission—State revenue sharing relativities—2009 update, incorporating a corrigendum.

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

10 ASEAN-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FREE TRADE AREA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr Crean (Minister for Trade), by leave, made a ministerial statement on the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area and presented the following document:

Treaties—Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis, regulation impact statement and annexures—Agreement establishing the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area.

Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Time for speech

Mr Crean, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Truss (Leader of the Nationals) speaking for a period not exceeding 27 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Truss addressed the House.

11 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (POLITICAL DONATIONS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2009

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.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Ms A. E. Burke, in the Chair)—

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Mr Adams	Ms K. M. Ellis	Ms King	Ms Rishworth
Mr Albanese	Dr Emerson	Ms Livermore	Ms Roxon
Mr Bevis	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms McKew	Ms Saffin
Mr Bidgood	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms Macklin	Mr Shorten
Ms Bird	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McMullan	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Bradbury	Mr Garrett	Mr Marles	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Butler	Mr Georganas	Mr Melham	Mr Snowdon
Mr Byrne	Ms George	Mr Murphy	Mr Sullivan
Ms Campbell	Mr Gibbons	Ms Neal	Mr Symon
Mr Champion	Ms Gillard	Mr Neumann	Mr Tanner
Mr Cheeseman	Mr Gray	Mr Oakeshott	Mr C. R. Thomson
Mr Clare	Ms Grierson	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Collins	Mr Griffin	Ms Owens	Mr Trevor
Mr Combet	Mr Hale	Ms Parke	Mr Turnour
Mr Crean	Ms Hall*	Mr Perrett	Ms Vamvakinou
Mr Danby	Mr Hayes*	Ms Plibersek	Mr Windsor
Mrs D'Ath	Mrs Irwin	Mr Price	Mr Zappia
Mr Debus	Ms Jackson	Mr Raguse	
Mrs Elliot	Dr Kelly	Ms Rea	
Ms A. L. Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr Ripoll	

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Mr Abbott	Mr Forrest	Mr Macfarlane	Mr Schultz
Mr Andrews	Mrs Gash	Ms Marino	Mr Scott
Fran Bailey	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Markus	Mr Secker
Mr Baldwin	Mr Haase	Mrs May	Mr Simpkins
Mr Billson	Mr Hartsuyker	Mrs Mirabella	Mr Slipper
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr A. G. Hawke	Mr Morrison	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr D. P. M. Hawker	Mrs Moylan	Mr Somlyay
Mr Briggs	Mrs Hull*	Dr Nelson	Dr Southcott
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hunt	Mr Neville	Dr Stone
Mr Chester	Mr Irons	Mr Pearce	Mr Truss
Mr Ciobo	Dr Jensen	Mr Pyne	Mrs Vale
Mr Cobb	Mr Johnson*	Mr Ramsey	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Mr Keenan	Mr Randall	Mr Wood
Mr Coulton	Mr Laming	Mr Robb	
Mr Dutton	Ms Ley	Mr Robert	
Mr Farmer	Mr Lindsay	Mr Ruddock	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved immediately.

On the motion of Dr Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support), the bill was read a third time.

12 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr Albanese (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until 12 noon tomorrow, 17 March 2009, unless the Speaker or, in the event of the Speaker being unavailable, the Deputy Speaker, fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting, and for government business to take precedence from 12 noon until 2 p.m. on that day.

Question—put and passed.

13 BILL REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Price (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the Social Security Amendment (Liquid Assets Waiting Period) Bill 2009 be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration.

Question—put and passed.

14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 5) 2008-2009—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr L. D. T. Ferguson (Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 6) 2008-2009—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr L. D. T. Ferguson (Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

16 SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (COMMONWEALTH SENIORS HEALTH CARD) BILL 2009

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.

Mrs Moylan addressing the House—

It being 8.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 34, Mrs Moylan was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

17 PETITIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND MINISTERS' RESPONSES—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mrs Irwin (Chair) presented petitions and Ministers' responses to petitions previously presented to the House.

Mrs Irwin made a statement in connection with petitions.

18 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Ms A. L. Ellis presented the following document:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Egypt and Israel, 24 October to 6 November 2008—Report, March 2009.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

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

Ms A. L. Ellis moved—That the House take note of the report.

In accordance with standing order 39, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

Ms A. L. Ellis, by leave, moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.

Question—put and passed.

19 ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Melham (Chair) presented the following documents:

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Report on the 2007 federal election electronic voting trials: Interim report of the inquiry into the conduct of the 2007 election and matters related thereto—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, March 2009.

Minutes of proceedings.

Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time for consideration of committee and delegation reports having expired—

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

In accordance with standing order 39, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

Mr Melham, by leave, moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.

Question—put and passed.

20 PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS NOTICES

Upon notice No. 1, private Members' business, being called on, Mr Oakeshott, in the absence of Mr Katter, and at his request, fixed the next sitting Monday as the day for presenting the Trade Practices Amendment Bill 2009 and the Quarantine Proclamation Amendment Bill 2009.

21 HOUSING

Mr Clare, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) welcomes the drop in home repossessions and the increase in housing sales in Western Sydney in the last few months;
- (2) recognises the importance of the Rudd Government's First Home Owner's Boost and interest rate cuts in improving housing affordability; and
- (3) condemns the Coalition for their criticism of this important stimulus to the economy and its opposition to the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

Debate ensued.

Mr Robert addressing the House—

22 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10 p.m., adjourned until 12 noon tomorrow, in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 16 March 2009:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives under—
Part 39-105—AD/PA-42—

No. 17—Cancellation [F2009L00872].

No. 19—Cancellation [F2009L00870].

No. 20—Cancellation [F2009L00868].

No. 21—Cancellation [F2009L00867].

No. 22—Cancellation [F2009L00866].

Part 39-107—AD/PADS—No. 1—Cancellation [F2009L00865].

Excise Act—By-Laws—2008 Nos 155, 156 [F2008L04515], [F2008L04516]—Revised explanatory statements.

Income Tax Assessment Act 1997—Determination—Employment termination payments redundancy trusts (12 months rule) 2009 [F2009L00716].

Migration Act—Migration (United Nations Security Council Resolutions) Regulations—Instrument—2009 Specification of United Nations Security Council resolutions, No. IMMI 09/012 [F2009L00987].

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations—2009—

FTD No. 1.

TD Nos 3, 4.

Rulings—

2006—CR No. 27 (Withdrawal).

2009—

CR Nos 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

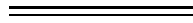
PR Nos 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Old series—

IT No. 2592 (Withdrawal).

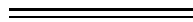
MT No. 2049 (Withdrawal).

Therapeutic Goods Act—Therapeutic Goods Order No. 69C—Amendment [F2009L00985].



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Katter and Mr Swan.



I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2008-09

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 84

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2009

1 The Main Committee met at 4 p.m.

2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 5) 2008-2009

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.

Mr Gray, by leave, addressed the Main Committee.

Question—put and passed—bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put immediately.

Question—That the bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 6) 2008-2009

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.

Question—put and passed—bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put immediately.

Question—That the bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

4 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Stone—That the House take note of the document (*presented on 11 March 2009*), viz.—

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Singapore and Indonesia, 28 October to 8 November 2008—
Report, March 2009—

Debate resumed.

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

5 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES, AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2009

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.

Suspension of meeting

At 6.23 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of meeting

At 6.38 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

It being approximately 6.40 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 192, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 AKHA PEOPLE

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Forrest—
That the House:

- (1) recognises the stateless circumstances of the Akha people of South East Asia occupying the remote mountain regions of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and China;
- (2) accepts that:
 - (a) a long five century history of manipulation and persecution endured by the Akha people has left them disadvantaged, disenfranchised and virtually voiceless; and
 - (b) the Akha people are fighting critical health outcomes through depressed economic circumstances and the utilisation of inefficient agricultural practices and that this situation leaves them as one of the most vulnerable nation groups anywhere in the world; and
- (3) calls on:
 - (a) the United Nations to do more to prevent the persecution of this people group by the oppressive Myanmar regime which is forcing many Akha families to flee across the border to Thailand;
 - (b) the governments of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and China to do more for this unique people group in their respective countries to assist them towards self determination; and
 - (c) AusAid to recognise the needs of this unique language group and fund sustainable agricultural aid programs to assist Akha people in growing good food to break the cycle of hunger and depression (*see item No. 2, Votes and Proceedings*)—

Debate resumed.

Document

Mr Forrest, by leave, presented the following document:

Hope for the hope less—Mr John Forrest MP, January 2009.

Debate continued.

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.

8 MICROBREWERS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Adams—
That the House:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) microbrewers in Australia have an excellent product that has provided a niche market and is complementing boutique wines as a regional tourism product; and
 - (b) these microbrewers are suffering disadvantage because they are treated differently to the small wine industry in relation to tax; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) support a review of the tax system in relation to microbrewers, with a view to making the tax more equitable and in a similar tax regime as for the boutique wine growers and the Wine Equalisation Tax; and
 - (b) continue to support the development of rural and regional areas with innovative new products such as those being developed by microbrewers (*see item No. 2, Votes and Proceedings*)—

Debate resumed.

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.

9 WATER CRISIS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Briggs—That the House:

- (1) condemns the Rudd Government for its handling of the water crisis;
- (2) demands the Government release a minimum of 30 gigalitres into the Lower Lakes and Coorong as recommended by the Senate inquiry;
- (3) notes that:
 - (a) low water levels in the Goolwa area are seriously affecting small business and tourism operators;
 - (b) flooding the area with sea water would destroy the natural environment; and
 - (c) the trade for some businesses has dropped by nearly 90 per cent; and
- (4) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) provide immediate financial assistance to the affected communities; and
 - (b) stop playing the blame game and take decisive action (*see item No. 2, Votes and Proceedings*)—

Debate resumed.

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.

10 NATION BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr C. R. Thomson—That the House welcomes the Government's nation building infrastructure policies to deal with the global financial crisis and specifically notes its investment in outer metropolitan transport (*see item No. 2, Votes and Proceedings*)—

Debate resumed.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, Ms Hall was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 192B, the order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That grievances be noted—

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

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

12 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr C. R. Thomson, the Main Committee adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed 4 p.m. tomorrow for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee