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1 Meeting of Senate
The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Scott Ryan) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

2 Documents
The following documents were tabled pursuant to standing order 61(1)(b):

Document presented by the President

Government document

3 Death of former Prime Minister the Honourable Robert James Lee (Bob) Hawke, AC
The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), by leave, moved—That the Senate records its deep regret at the death, on 16 May 2019, of the Honourable Robert James Lee (Bob) Hawke AC, former Member for Wills and Prime Minister of Australia, places on record its appreciation of his long and highly distinguished service to the nation and tenders its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

The motion was supported and all senators present joined in a moment of silence.

Question passed.

4 Notices
Senator Watt: To move on the next day of sitting—

(1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian Government’s Northern Australia agenda, be established to inquire into and report on the effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of the Australian Government’s Northern Australia agenda, with particular reference to:
   (a) facilitation of public and private investment in infrastructure and economic development;
   (b) economic and social benefit arising from that investment for Northern Australians, in particular First Nations people;
   (c) funding models and policy measures that capture the full value of existing and emerging industries;
   (d) measures taken to develop an appropriately skilled workforce;
   (e) emerging national and international trends and their impact on the Northern Australia agenda; and
   (f) any related matters.

(2) That the committee present its final report on or before the final sitting day of 2020.

(3) That the committee consist of 7 senators, as follows:
   (a) 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate;
   (b) 3 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate;
(c) 1 nominated by minor party and independent senators; and
(d) 1 nominated by the Leader of the Australian Greens.

(4) That:
(a) participating members may be appointed to the committee on the
nomination of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of
the Opposition in the Senate or any minority party or independent
senator; and
(b) participating members may participate in hearings of evidence and
deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of members of the
committee, but may not vote on any questions before the committee.

(5) That 4 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee.

(6) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding
that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and
notwithstanding any vacancy.

(7) That the committee elect as chair a member nominated by the Leader of the
Opposition in the Senate and as deputy chair a member nominated by the
committee.

(8) That the deputy chair shall act as chair when the chair is absent from a
meeting of the committee or the position of chair is temporarily vacant.

(9) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when
acting as chair, have a casting vote.

(10) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 2 or
more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters
which the committee is empowered to consider.

(11) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and
examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public
or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution
of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its
proceedings and the evidence taken and such interim recommendations as it
may deem fit.

(12) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and
resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for
the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President of the
Senate.

(13) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such papers and
evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such
proceedings as take place in public. (general business notice of motion no. 20)

Senator Keneally: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table
by the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs, by no later than 12 pm on
23 July 2019, the following documents:

(a) any correspondence, emails and notes of discussion between the Department of
Home Affairs and:

(i) Paladin, including Paladin Holdings Pte Ltd, Paladin Solutions Group,
Paladin Group Australia or Paladin Australia Pte Ltd, and any
individuals either employed by, or holding a financial interest in,
Paladin,
(A) in particular, any correspondence, emails and notes of discussion that include Mr Dermot Casey, and

(ii) NKW Holdings, including NKW Holdings Australia Pte Ltd, and any individuals either employed by, or holding a financial interest in NKW;

(b) any formal contracts between the Department of Home Affairs and any of the abovementioned companies to provide services in Papua New Guinea or Manus Island, with commercially sensitive information redacted;

(c) any reports prepared by external auditors, particularly Ernst and Young or KPMG, regarding operations undertaken by the abovementioned companies, or the tendering process that secured those services, with commercially sensitive information redacted; and

(d) any formal briefings, talking points or Question Time briefings prepared by the Department of Home Affairs in relation to the performance or activities of any of the abovementioned companies, or the tendering process that secured those services. 

Senator Keneally: To move on the next day of sitting—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs, by no later than 12 pm on 23 July 2019, the report prepared by the Independent Health Advice Panel and the Minister’s summary and response, in accordance with section 199E of the Migration Act 1958.

Senators McDonald and McGrath: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate supports the development of the Carmichael Mine project and the opening of the Galilee Basin.

Senator Carr: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that, on 6 May 2019, the Australian Academy of Science (the Academy) celebrated the 65th anniversary of its creation by Royal Charter;

(b) congratulates the Academy on 65 years of service to the nation;

(c) acknowledges that, since its formation in 1954, by 23 of Australia’s most eminent scientists, the Academy has celebrated scientific excellence and supported greater understanding of science by the Australian people;

(d) recognises the unique role the Academy plays in promoting international engagement and research collaboration and investing in the early and mid-career researchers, as well as serving as a source of independent and authoritative scientific advice to the Parliament and Commonwealth on Australia’s future challenges and opportunities; and

(e) also congratulates the Academy on celebrating the 60th anniversary of the construction of the iconic Shine Dome, one of Australia’s most imaginative and well-known buildings.

Senator Carr: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that 25 June 2019 marks the 50th anniversary since the creation of the Australian Academy of the Humanities by Royal Charter;

(b) congratulates the Academy of the Humanities on 50 years of service to the nation;

(c) acknowledges that, from its earliest days, the Academy of the Humanities has championed the contribution that the arts, culture, music, history, language and literature, philosophy and archaeology make to our national life; and
(d) recognises the unique role the Academy of the Humanities plays in promoting international engagement and research collaboration and investing in the next generation of humanities researchers, as well as serving as a source of independent and authoritative advice to ensure that ethical, historical and cultural perspectives inform discussions regarding Australia’s future challenges and opportunities. (general business notice of motion no. 25)

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong): To move on the next day of sitting—

(1) That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) that Mr Christopher Pyne served as the Minister for Defence Industry from 19 July 2016 to 28 August 2018, and as the Minister for Defence from 28 August 2018 to 11 April 2019,

(ii) that Mr Pyne has taken employment with consulting firm EY,

(iii) Mr Pyne’s statement that he is “looking forward to providing strategic advice to EY, as the firm looks to expand its footprint in the defence industry”, and

(iv) EY’s statement that Mr Pyne will help build EY’s defence-related business in South Australia and elsewhere, including helping to “lead conversations about what all states need to do to meet the challenges and opportunities this defence investment will bring”;

(b) endorses:

(i) Senator Birmingham’s statement that the Government expects that “everybody should adhere to that Code of Conduct and that includes Christopher”, and

(ii) Senator Abetz’s statement on Mr Pyne’s conduct that “people do expect a standard from the ministers and then former ministers to ensure that which they have learnt and gleaned from their ministerial roles are not exported into other roles from which they can potentially gain financially”;

(c) further notes:

(i) that Ms Julie Bishop served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs from 18 September 2013 to 28 August 2018,

(ii) that Ms Bishop has now been appointed to the board of Palladium, a global impact investing and consultancy group which was awarded more than half a billion dollars in government contracts while Ms Bishop was the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and

(iii) Palladium’s statement that “Ms Bishop brings a network of global contacts, years of public service experience and background in driving innovation in international development”;

(d) expresses its view that Mr Pyne’s employment and Ms Bishop’s appointment are, prima facie, breaches of the Prime Minister’s Statement of Ministerial Standards;

(e) calls on the Prime Minister to take appropriate action; and
(f) orders that there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Prime Minister, by no later than 10 am on 22 July 2019, a letter from the Prime Minister outlining in detail:
(i) when Mr Morrison was first made aware of the actions of Mr Pyne or Ms Bishop,
(ii) what action the Prime Minister has taken since being made aware, and
(iii) how the Prime Minister’s Statement of Ministerial Standards has not been breached or alternatively what arrangements have been put in place to ensure they are not breached.

(2) That, at 12.20 pm on 22 July 2019, before government business is called on, a senator may ask the relevant minister for an explanation of the response to the order contained in paragraph (f) or for an explanation of the failure to respond, and:
(a) the senator may, at the conclusion of the explanation, move without notice—That the Senate take note of the explanation; or
(b) in the event that the minister does not respond to the order or provide an explanation, the senator may, without notice, move a motion in relation to the minister’s failure to provide either a response or an explanation. (general business notice of motion no. 26)

Senator Pratt: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:
(i) since 2013, gas prices for manufacturers have skyrocketed, increasing by up to four times their levels in 2013,
(ii) according to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, spiralling gas prices have resulted in three manufacturers closing down and threaten the viability of many more businesses,
(iii) Australia has become the world’s largest gas exporter while our own businesses face difficulties in securing affordable gas supplies,
(iv) the Federal Government continues to refuse to bring big gas companies to heel by finally pulling the trigger on gas export controls,
(v) under Prime Minister Morrison, power prices have continued to skyrocket, with wholesale power price futures contracts up by 33% since former Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Turnbull was forced out of The Lodge, and
(vi) Prime Minister Morrison’s election promise to reduce wholesale power prices to $70/mwh by 2021 would only bring prices back to the levels seen under his predecessor, Mr Turnbull; and
(b) calls on the Federal Government to take real action to reduce the cost of energy in Australia by:
(i) bringing big gas companies to heel by finally pulling the trigger on gas export controls and ensuring Australian users have access to affordable Australian gas,
(ii) guaranteeing a reduction in gas prices for Australian businesses to levels that can sustain competitive Australian manufacturing, as well as ensuring ample gas supply for Australian users, and
(iii) delivering a national energy policy that will end investment uncertainty and deliver a modern energy system including cheaper, reliable and clean power. (general business notice of motion no. 27)
Senator Dodson: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
   (i) deeming rates determine how much the Federal Government assumes
       pensioners earn on their savings, and are used to calculate how much
       pension a person receives,
   (ii) deeming rates are set by the Government,
   (iii) the Reserve Bank has cut interest rates five times since 2015, but in this
       time the Government has not adjusted the deeming rates at all,
   (iv) the cash rate is now just 1%, but the Government has kept the deeming
       rates at up to 3.25%,
   (v) secure investments, like term deposits, are not providing returns in line
       with the deeming rate,
   (vi) low interest rates and high deeming rates mean pensioners’ budgets are
       being hit twice, with lower earnings on savings and reduced pension
       payments,
   (vii) up to 627,000 age pensioners, who are on a part-pension because of the
       income test, are impacted by the Government’s refusal to reduce
       deeming rates, and
   (viii) the Treasurer has said banks should pass on interest rate cuts to
       mortgage holders in full, but the Government is refusing to do the same
       by reducing the deeming rates for pensioners; and
(b) calls on the Federal Government to urgently reduce the deeming rates and stop
    counting income that many pensioners simply are not earning. (general
    business notice of motion no. 28)

Senator Waters: To move on the next day of sitting—
(1) That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent this
    resolution having effect.

(2) That the following bills be restored to the Notice Paper and consideration of
    each of the bills resume at the stage reached in the 45th Parliament:
    Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018
    National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 (No. 2)
    Landholders’ Right to Refuse (Gas and Coal) Bill 2015. (general business
    notice of motion no. 29)

Senator Waters: To move on the next day of sitting—
(1) That the Senate—
   (a) notes that current and previous Prime Ministers’ Statements of
       Ministerial Standards clearly provide that ministers must act with
       honesty and integrity in all their activities, in particular, ministers must:
       (i) make arrangements to avoid conflicts arising from their private
           interests, also having regard to interests held by family members
           (paragraphs 2.9 and 2.17), and
       (ii) not use public office for private purposes (paragraph 2.2);
   (b) further notes with deep concern recent reports in The Guardian that:
       (i) while Jam Land Pty Ltd, a company part-owned by Mr Angus
           Taylor MP and his brother, was under investigation by the
           Department of the Environment for alleged unlawful destruction
of critically-endangered grasslands, Minister Taylor met with Department of the Environment staff,
(ii) an investigator from the office responsible for investigating the clearing allegations attended at least one meeting between Minister Taylor and departmental staff, and
(iii) the former Minister for the Environment, Mr Josh Frydenberg, was approached by Mr Angus Taylor in relation to the critically-endangered listing of the grassland species, and Minister Frydenberg subsequently sought advice about his powers to amend the critically-endangered listing;
(c) is of the opinion that there are serious questions about whether this conduct complies with the Ministerial Standards; and
(d) requires that the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Cormann) attend the Senate at 12.20 pm on 22 July 2019 to explain, for a period not longer than 10 minutes:
(i) the conduct of Ministers Taylor and Frydenberg and how it is not a breach of the Ministerial Standards, and
(ii) whether any investigation has been, or will be, undertaken into the conduct of Ministers Taylor and Frydenberg.

(2) That, at the conclusion of the Minister’s explanation, any senator may, without notice, move a motion to take note of the Minister’s explanation.

(3) That any motion under paragraph (2) may be debated for no longer than 1 hour, and have precedence over all government business until determined, and senators may speak to the motion for not more than 10 minutes. (general business notice of motion no. 30)

5 Adjournment as mark of respect
The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) moved—That, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late the Honourable Robert James Lee (Bob) Hawke, AC the Senate do now adjourn.

The Senate adjourned at 2.04 pm till Thursday, 4 July 2019 at 9.30 am.

6 Attendance
Present, all senators except Senators Lambie, Polley*, Reynolds and Sterle* (*on leave).

RICHARD PYE
Clerk of the Senate