



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

**AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND
FOOD AUTHORITY
AMENDMENT BILL 1999 [NO. 2]**

In Committee

SPEECH

Tuesday, 7 December 1999

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

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Speaker	Stott Despoja, Sen Natasha	Question No.	

Senator STOTT DESPOJA (SA) (6.25 pm)—I wish to assure Senator Evans that that is the final draft of the amendment. I am pleased to hear that he is considering supporting the amendment. My understanding from what I had heard was that we were not actually getting your support, so I would hate to think that you were dressing up your opposition to this amendment on the basis of some last-minute changes as opposed to the fact we are indeed amending an amendment that was moved successfully in a deal between the government and the Labor Party in the other house. We acknowledge that the Labor Party and the government in their dealings have improved this bill, and we commend them on those efforts. We think this amendment would actually strengthen some of the desires behind the Labor Party and government changes in this new version of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority Amendment Bill. I do hope that the opposition is still keeping a reasonably open mind on this one, because I think all of these issues—scientific evidence, precautionary principle, fair trading, efficient and internationally competitive food industry and the promotion of consistency between domestic and international food standards—are things that we all should be supporting.