

Those in the media who decide to use and publish leaked material likewise show their disrespect for the institution of parliament and the important principles which underpin its work. I want to make it very clear to journalists and their publishers that a potential contempt can be committed in the act of publishing material from parliamentary committees that has not been authorised for publication. This is serious. I will be writing to the journalist in question and the president of the Parliamentary Press Gallery accordingly.

I want to remind all those involved with parliamentary committee processes of the importance of observing the rules against unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, including draft reports. Unauthorised disclosures erode trust in the parliamentary process and have a clear adverse impact on our work as committee members and as parliamentarians. I thank the House.

COMMITTEES

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Report

Mr ANDREWS (Menzies) (10:11): On behalf of the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, I present the committee's report entitled *Advocating for the elimination of child and forced marriage* interim report for the inquiry into certain aspects of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade annual report 2019-20.

Report made a parliamentary paper in accordance with standing order 39(e).

BILLS

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2021

First Reading

Bill and explanatory memorandum presented by **Mr Evans**, for **Ms Ley**.

Bill read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr EVANS (Brisbane—Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management) (10:12): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill is one of a package of bills to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the ozone protection and synthetic greenhouse gas management program.

The changes will reduce the burden on business and ensure the program can continue to achieve important environmental outcomes.

The ozone protection and synthetic greenhouse gas management program regulates the manufacture, import, export, use and disposal of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases.

This program protects the ozone layer and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

An extensive review completed in 2016 found that the program has been very successful through working in partnership with businesses that supply and use these chemicals.

In May 2016 the Australian government announced a range of changes identified by the review to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

The major emissions reduction and streamlining changes were passed by parliament in 2017.

This included the introduction of the hydrofluorocarbon, HFC, phase-down to reduce emissions of these potent global warming gases. HFCs are a group of synthetic greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration and air conditioning.

The Australian government was instrumental in gaining agreement by all 197 parties to the Montreal Protocol to the worldwide phase-down of HFCs, an important action to protect our ozone and our climate.

The amendment bill introduces most of the remaining measures announced following the review of the program.

The bill also introduces measures developed from consultation and stakeholder feedback since the 2017 amendments, which has incorporated practical ideas and views from industry, consumers and business as they have implemented the measures.

The government continues to work with stakeholders on this program to achieve sustainable environmental benefits as well as better outcomes for consumers and business.

Measures to streamline and clarify program requirements include bringing into the legislation the controls that are currently imposed through licence conditions, such as the ban on import of bulk gas in non-refillable containers.

These changes provide clarity for business and improve protection of the environment.

The bill will clarify licence and exemption requirements, including changes to make the legislation easier to understand and reduce unintentional noncompliance.

Increasing the time allowed for submitting reports and paying levies will reduce the regulatory burden on business and maximise compliance with program requirements by increasing the flexibility for businesses to manage their workload and their cash flow.

The bill reforms the compliance and enforcement approach of the program to provide for consistent Commonwealth regulatory powers and to increase legal certainty for industry and individuals who are subject to the act.

These amendments adopt the standard provisions of the Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014, as is Australian government policy when amending legislation.

Minor modifications are made to the standard provisions of the Regulatory Powers Act as appropriate to the program.

The offence and penalty structure in the act is modernised to give flexibility in enforcement while also providing deterrence against noncompliance.

The bill will also add the option of licence suspension as an alternative to immediate cancellation or financial penalties.

The reforms and various amendments in this bill are each minor on their own. As a whole, the package of reforms represents an important step in ensuring the continued success of this program for ozone protection and synthetic greenhouse gas management.

The reforms will encourage compliance and reduce the regulatory burden on business whilst ensuring that the standard of environmental protection provided by the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act remains high.

I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Amendment Bill 2021

First Reading

Bill and explanatory memorandum presented by **Mr Evans**.

Bill read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr EVANS (Brisbane—Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management) (10:17):

I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that cost recovery arrangements for the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Program can continue to be effective.

The bill will amend the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Act 1995 (the import levy act) to remove the levy on the import of equipment that operates using ozone depleting substances.

This levy is no longer needed as this type of equipment is largely banned from import and may only be imported in very limited circumstances—such as where the equipment is essential for public safety or for scientific purposes and no practical alternative exists. It is appropriate not to charge a levy in those kinds of circumstances.

The bill will also amend the import levy act to provide for the levy rates to be set by regulation rather than being fixed in the act itself.

The change will allow for more timely and responsive cost recovery approaches in the program and ensure that the Commonwealth's likely costs in administering the program can continue to be recovered.

Any change to the levy rate would have to be appropriate and not recover more than the likely reasonable costs of administering the program. This would only take place after review of cost recovery arrangements.

The capped levy rate has been in place since 2003. As such, it does not reflect the current cost of administering the program.

Removing the cap allows the levy to be adjusted periodically so that activities under the act and regulations can be fully cost recovered in the future.

I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Amendment Bill 2021

First Reading

Bill and explanatory memorandum presented by **Mr Evans**.

Bill read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr EVANS (Brisbane—Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management) (10:19): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that cost recovery arrangements for the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Program can continue to be effective.

The bill will amend the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Act 1995 (the manufacture levy act) to provide for the levy rates to be set by regulation rather than fixed in the manufacture levy act.

The change will allow for more timely and responsive cost recovery approaches in the program and ensure that the Commonwealth's likely costs in administering the program can continue to be recovered.

Any change to the levy rate would have to be appropriate and not recover more than the likely costs of administering the program. This would only take place after review of the cost recovery arrangements.

The capped levy rate has been in place since 2003. As such, it does not reflect the current cost of administering the program.

Removing the cap allows the levy to be adjusted periodically so that activities under the act and regulations can be fully cost recovered in the future. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2021

First Reading

Bill and explanatory memorandum presented by **Mr Taylor**, for **Mr Tudge**.

Bill read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr TAYLOR (Hume—Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction) (10:22): Today I am introducing the Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2021, which amends the Australian Research Council Act 2001 to ensure continuity of funding to the funding schemes of the Australian Research Council or ARC.

This bill will amend the Australian Research Council Act 2001 to update the existing funding caps and insert new funding caps through until 30 June 2025 for the funding of competitive research in Australia.

This routine update to the ARC's funding caps provides for anticipated inflationary growth so that the government can continue to support Australia's research sector.

The new cap for the 2021-22 financial year has been increased to just over \$815 million, and a new paragraph is added to provide appropriations as per agreed Commonwealth policy to the 2024-25 financial year.

This funding builds on the Australian government's investment of \$11.9 billion in science and research in 2020-21, around 6.7 per cent of which goes to the ARC.

The ARC's Discovery and Linkage programs, and their flagship programs, Discovery Projects and Linkage Projects, support a broad range of research efforts and date back to the birth of the agency in 2001.

Discovery is for fundamental discovery or 'blue sky' research, while Linkage supports collaborative research that facilitates linkages within universities and outside the university sector.

These programs continue today as an important balance of the ARC's research investment.

The ARC Centres of Excellence scheme supports centres of expertise through which our best researchers maintain Australia's international standing. Since the first funding round in 2003, the scheme has supported a total of 70 centres, with funding of \$1.5 billion awarded.