

Mrs Hercus

PARLIAMENTARY POWERS

ANALYSIS

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A BILL INTITULED

An Act to empower the House of Representatives to scrutinise the accounts and operations of commercial or trading enterprises owned, controlled, or operated by the Crown

- 5 **1. Short Title and commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Powers Act 1979.
 (2) This Act shall come into force 30 days from the date on which it received the Royal assent.

- 10 **2. Interpretation**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:
 “Crown” includes any servant, agent, nominee, or appointee of the Crown:
15 “State-owned enterprise” means any body, corporate or unincorporate (including a subsidiary of that body) the ownership, control, or direction of which is wholly or substantially vested in the Crown, and whose objects or functions or activities are of a predominantly trading or commercial nature.

No. 58—1

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3. Act binds Crown—This Act binds the Crown.**4. State-owned enterprise may be required to account**—

(1) Subject only to its rules, customs, and usage, the House of Representatives or any committee thereof may require any State-owned enterprise to disclose information or produce books of account or any other document relating to its operations in the same manner and to the same extent as if that State-owned enterprise were wholly funded from year to year by money appropriated by Parliament. 5

(2) It is hereby declared that any requirement arising from subsection (1) of this section and anything done in 10 compliance therewith is a proceeding in Parliament.

5. Audit of State-owned enterprises—(1) Notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary, the House of Representatives may require the Controller and Auditor-General to audit the accounts and financial statement of any State-owned 15 enterprise.

(2) Any audit undertaken pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be carried out at the time at which the State-owned enterprise would normally be subject to audit.

(3) The power of the Controller and Auditor-General to 20 carry out an audit under the authority of this section shall lapse at the end of the financial year for which it was granted:

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be construed so as to prevent the completion of any audit being 25 carried out at the time at which the end of that financial year occurs.

(4) For the purposes of any audit required to be made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the Controller and Auditor-General may appoint the auditor of the State- 30 owned enterprise to carry out the audit and to report thereon to the Controller and Auditor-General.