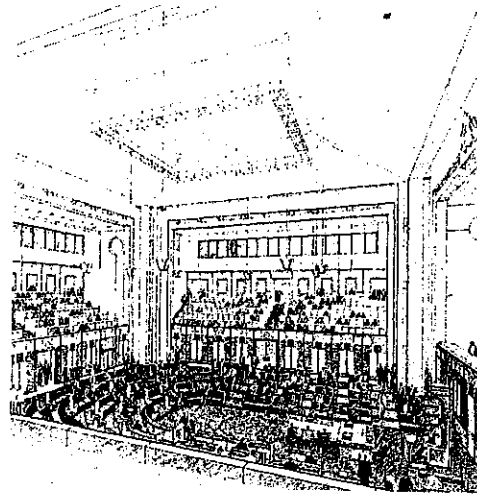


## Making a Law

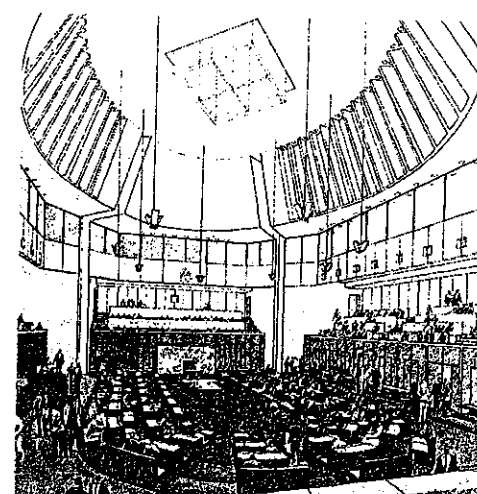
The Parliament has rules for the making of a law:

- Every plan for a new law is written down and is called a bill.
- The bill has to say exactly what the law will do.
- The two Houses of Parliament must each pass the bill.
- The Governor-General must sign the bill.



### In the House of Representatives

1. The Prime Minister or a Minister introduces the bill and tells the House what the bill is about. The bill is given to all Members to read, and also becomes public.
2. Members of the Government and the Opposition speak about ('debate') the bill. The Opposition may try to change parts of the bill.
3. Members vote on the bill. If it is passed the bill is sent to the Senate. (It would be unusual for bills not to be passed in the House of Representatives because the Government has the most Members.)



### In the Senate

1. The President of the Senate tells Senators that a bill has been received from the House of Representatives.
2. The Leader of the Government or a Senate Minister introduces the bill and tells the Senate what the bill is about. The bill is given to all Senators to read.
3. Senators debate the bill and then go through it carefully. Changes, or amendments, may be made to a bill in the Senate.
4. Senators vote on the bill. Once a bill has been passed by both Houses, it is taken to Government House for the Governor-General to sign. This makes the bill an Act of Parliament.

### In your workbook

Draw a picture showing the passage of a bill through the Parliament. You can begin either in the House of Representatives or the Senate.