To find a second reading speech (SRS) in Hansard, it helps if you know the date on with it took place, or the date that the Bill was introduced. Once you know the date, you can navigate to the information more easily.

Alternatively, search Hansard from the Parliament of Australia website. Hansard Indexes are available from 1901 onwards and can be searched or browsed using ParlInfo, the Parliament’s search engine.

This tutorial shows how to locate a Bill’s SRS using the ParlInfo Advanced Search.

Note: there are various ways to use ParlInfo to search or Browse Hansard
ParlInfo

The ParlInfo Search link is located on the top right of the Parliament of Australia home page.

Click on the link, then select Advanced Search/Browse tab on the search page.
Hansard Search

On the ParlInfo Advanced Search page, select **Hansard** from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, or from one chamber only.

In the **Search box**, type the Bill’s name and “second reading”. Use quotation marks to enclose terms.

Click **Search**
As well as accessing links on the “Summary Results” page, you can narrow your results by collapsing the DATE links in the Browse By box.

As you collapse the Date links, note that the number of results will decrease but become more relevant.
Navigating the Hansard Index

Now that you have drilled down to the required results, click on the link to navigate to the contents of that day’s Hansard.
To view the full text of the SRS, click on the link to the Speaker’s name, located in the contents.

This will open up to the full text.
To download and save the document, open the “Download Fragment” file.

To access the entire Hansard publication for that day, open the “Full Day’s Hansard” file, which you can then download or save, as well as search within the full text.
Second Reading Speech

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 1958

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MIGRATION BILL 1958

Second Reading

SPEECH

Thursday, 1 May 1958

Speaker: DOINER, Alexander

The purpose of this bill is to consolidate and amend Australia's immigration statutes. It has nothing to do with the Commonwealth's current immigration policy. Its primary concern is with the measures by which federal law is implemented. An honorable member will have noted that a technical document arranged in four parts, containing 65 clauses, the more material portions of which dealing with immigration, deportation, and the management of children and refugees. Some of the drafting is inescapably complicated, but to that end to eliminate such clauses explanatory notes are being considered. I hope, will guide the House towards a clearer understanding of the reasons for, and implications of, this legislation.

These provisions are the fruit of long deliberation by the Government, the officers, and the Immigration Advisory Council. Every aspect of the immigration law has been carefully examined in the light of our half-century of experience. We have derived into the statutes of other countries, particularly those of the British Commonwealth, as well as into the auxiliary provisions of our own laws. In the result that bill repairs many existing enactments. It omits 15 sections of the present act which have become unnecessary or outdated; it retains some parts of the existing act which we feel should be preserved, and it advances much that is new. Not so is the Government's best work on this range of subjects. Later in the year, I shall be introducing amendments to the Nationality and Citizenship Act, designed to place unauthorized Australians on the same footing as Australian-born people in relation to loss of citizenship. In view of some opposition for this reason I say now or so to forestall any possible misunderstanding or to defer the proceedings.

Control of immigration has been an issue in Australian history. So far back as 1787, the Victorian Parliament imposed restrictions on the entry of Chinese, an example which was followed within the ensuing twenty years by New South Wales and Queensland. Subsequently, all the Australian colonies, as they were then, passed fairly comprehensive immigration acts, the most notable of which, for our purposes here, were those of New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania in 1897, incorporating the division text. This importance, but contrasts, developed in the arrival of the Natives of the same race, and if my memories are correct, originated in the minds of those inspired their imperialist, Joseph Chamberlain, who was then the Colonial Secretary in Lord Salisbury's British Government. As the House will recall, the first Commonwealth Parliament, silent upon this precedent, and the division text was embodied in 1913, in section 3 of the Immigration Act, where it remains.

In recent years, the need for a thorough overhaul of our immigration legislation has become increasingly apparent. The division text, however, noble and competent it may have seemed 65 years ago, must surely appear today as a relic, knocked away of machinery, in the category of those sparsely ugly museum pieces of the Victorian age, and quite out of keeping with the ideas of the second half of the 20th century. It has been used to prevent the entry to Australia of both European and Asian, and also in a measure of deporting people within five years of their arrival, even though they were legally admitted to settle permanently. In its absence, assessing operation has evoked much more investment outside Australia, and has tainted our good name in the eyes of the world. The Government, therefore, proposes to abolish it, and to substitute as it is named the, simple expedient of an entry permit.

Clause 6 provides that any one who enters Australia without being granted an entry permit at the time of arrival will be a prohibited immigrant. The new procedure will work in this way. When passengers on a ship or aircraft pass before an immigration officer, and be found one or more there ineligible to enter, under policy or instructions approved by the Minister, such passengers will not be disembarked and reduced to a distinction text, but will remain in the ship or aircraft. In such cases, they will become prohibited.