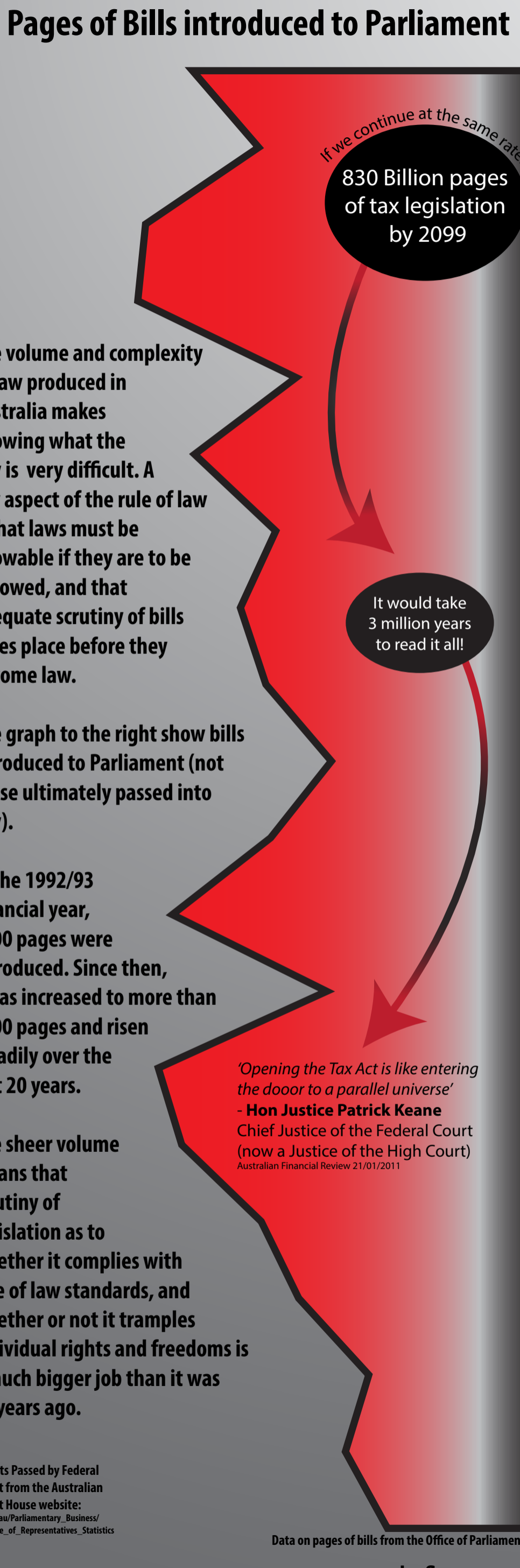
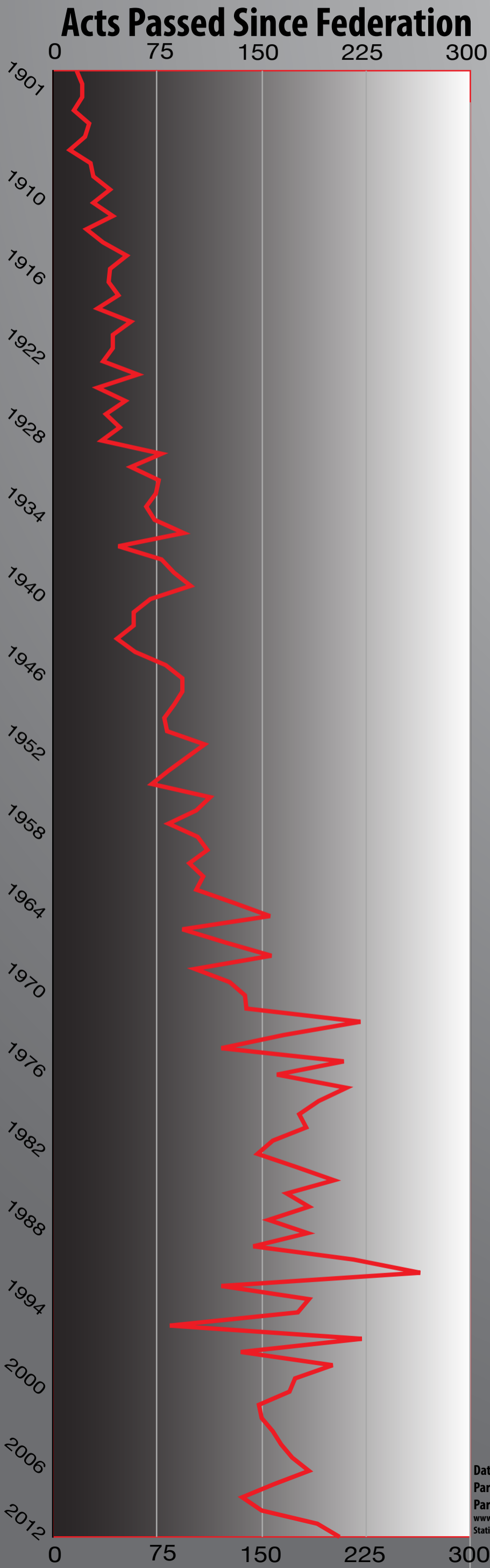


Are you keeping up with legislation?



The volume and complexity of law produced in Australia makes knowing what the law is very difficult. A key aspect of the rule of law is that laws must be knowable if they are to be followed, and that adequate scrutiny of bills takes place before they become law.

The graph to the right show bills introduced to Parliament (not those ultimately passed into law).

In the 1992/93 financial year, 4100 pages were introduced. Since then, it has increased to more than 9000 pages and risen steadily over the last 20 years.

The sheer volume means that scrutiny of legislation as to whether it complies with rule of law standards, and whether or not it tramples individual rights and freedoms is a much bigger job than it was 20 years ago.

If we continue at the same rate:
830 Billion pages of tax legislation by 2099

It would take 3 million years to read it all!

'Opening the Tax Act is like entering the door to a parallel universe'
- Hon Justice Patrick Keane
 Chief Justice of the Federal Court (now a Justice of the High Court)
Australian Financial Review 21/01/2011

Data on Acts Passed by Federal Parliament from the Australian Parliament House website:
www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Statistics/House_of_Representatives_Statistics

Data on pages of bills from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel