



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION
NO. 10/2017: 14 – 23 NOVEMBER 2017

November 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24

This document provides a summary of significant procedural events and precedents in the Legislative Assembly. It is produced at the end of each sitting period. Where applicable the relevant Standing Orders are noted.

BUSINESS

Changes to Sessional Orders (Private Members' Statements and Community Recognition Statements)

On 21 November 2017 the Speaker tabled a report of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, entitled *Changes to the Sessional Orders (Private Members' Statements and Community Recognition Statements)*.

In its report the Committee recommended that the current allotment of up to 47 Private Members' Statements (PMS) per sitting week be increased to up to 75 per sitting week.

The Committee also recommended that the current 20 and 30 minute periods provided for the giving of Community Recognition Statements (CRS) on Wednesdays and Thursdays, respectively, be increased to 30 minutes each sitting day, giving Members an additional 40 minutes each sitting week in which to give CRS.

To give these changes effect, the Committee recommended that the Sessional Orders providing for PMS (108) and CRS (108A) be amended. The Committee also recommended that consequential amendments to the Sessional Orders providing for the adjournment and next meeting of the House (47) and the Routine of Business (97) be made.

After the report was tabled the Leader of the House moved that the proposed amendments to the Sessional Orders be agreed to. The motion was passed on the voices.

Votes and Proceedings: 21/11/2017, pp. 1497-500.

Standing Orders 46, 97, 108, 108A and 364.

(Procedural note: The changes to the Sessional Orders recognise the popularity of PMS and CRS as a means by which Members can speak about issues that are important to their electorates, and acknowledge people and groups in their communities.)

Tabling of papers by announcement

On 14 November 2017 Standing and Sessional Orders were suspended for the remainder of the 2017 sittings to enable Ministers to table papers by making an announcement in the House (as opposed to handing up copies of the papers in the House). Under the motion, any papers announced in the House must have been lodged with the Table Office beforehand.

Votes and Proceedings: 14/11/2017, p. 1470.

Standing Orders 264 and 365.

(Procedural note: This practical arrangement reflects the large number of annual reports which are tabled by Ministers toward the end of the spring sitting period, in accordance with the statutory timeframes of annual reporting legislation.)

Christmas felicitations

On 23 November 2017, the last sitting day before Christmas, in accordance with a suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders on 21 November 2017, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other Members spoke on a motion that the House take note of Christmas felicitations.

The suspension motion also provided for certain business displaced by the Christmas felicitations speeches (which would normally be considered on Thursday afternoons) to be considered on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 November 2017.

Votes and Proceedings: 21/11/2017, pp. 1500-1; 23/11/2017, pp. 1541 and 1542.

Hansard: 23/11/2017, pp. 44-53 and 56-68.

Standing Orders 97 and 365.

Days of Meeting

On 14 and 16 November 2017, the Legislative Assembly agreed to motions that, unless otherwise ordered, it would meet during the 2018 autumn and spring sittings on the following dates:

Autumn Sittings:

February 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15;

March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15;

April 10, 11 and 12;

May 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24;

June 5, 6, 7, 19, 20 and 21.

Spring Sittings:

August 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16;

September 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27;

October 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25;

November 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22, and November 27, 28 and 29 as a potential reserve week.

Votes and Proceedings: 14/11/2017, p. 1471; 16/11/2017, p. 1493.

Standing Order 34.

(Procedural Note: The days and times of meetings of the Legislative Assembly are appointed by a motion of the Leader of the House or other Minister, usually in the second last sitting week of the preceding year. The Assembly then meets on those days unless a special adjournment is agreed to, or the Assembly is prorogued.)

Special adjournment of the House

On 23 November 2017 the Leader of the House moved a motion for the special adjournment of the House until Tuesday, 6 February 2018 at 12.00 noon.

Votes and Proceedings: 23/11/2017, p. 1541.

Standing Order 34.

MEMBERS

Three new Members of the Legislative Assembly

On 14 November 2017 three new Members, Mr Stephen Bali MP (Member for Blacktown), Ms Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra) and Mr Austin Evans MP (Member for Murray), took their places in the Legislative Assembly after winning by-elections on 14 October 2017.

The three Members were introduced, took the pledge of loyalty, signed the roll of the House and then took their seats.

In accordance with a motion agreed to by the House on 14 November 2017, Ms Cooke and Mr Evans gave inaugural speeches on 14 November 2017 and Mr Bali gave an inaugural speech on 21 November 2017.

Votes and Proceedings: 14/11/2017, pp. 1470-1, p. 1474; 21/11/17, p. 1505.

Hansard (Proof): 14/11/2017, pp. 39-42, pp. 43-6; 21/11/2017, pp. 43-7.

Standing Orders 23, 24 and 63.

(Procedural note: A Member's inaugural speech is the first speech they will give in the Legislative Assembly and the House can agree to interrupt business at a specified time for this purpose. In practice, the date and times are usually arranged through the party whips in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business.

Members may speak for up to 20 minutes when giving an inaugural speech.

Prior to giving an inaugural speech Members are not prevented from participating in parliamentary business, for example, voting, making Private Members' Statements and asking questions.)

Joint sitting to elect a Member of the Legislative Council

On 16 November 2017 Members of the Legislative Assembly attended the Legislative Council Chamber for a joint sitting to elect a person to fill the seat in the Legislative Council vacated by Mr Gregory Pearce.

At the conclusion of the joint sitting, the Legislative Assembly Members returned to the Assembly Chamber, the sitting resumed, and the Deputy Speaker reported that Ms Natalie Peta Ward had been elected to fill the Legislative Council vacancy.

Votes and Proceedings: 16/5/2017, p. 1494.

(Procedural note: In NSW casual vacancies in the Legislative Council are filled by a person elected at a joint sitting of both Houses called by the Governor. If the vacant seat was previously filled by a member of a political party, only another member of that party may be elected to fill the vacancy. This is specified by Section 22D of the *Constitution Act 1902*.)