



# Standing Orders and Procedure Committee

REPORT 3/56 – MARCH 2016

## CHANGES TO THE ROUTINE OF BUSINESS AND CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS

REPORTS  
COMMITTEES

5

LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

CHANGES TO THE ROUTINE OF BUSINESS AND CONSEQUENTIAL  
CHANGES TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS

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The motto of the coat of arms for the state of New South Wales is “Orta recens quam pura nites”. It is written in Latin and means “newly risen, how brightly you shine”.

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# Membership

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## Terms of reference

The Standing Orders and Procedure Committee has been appointed to inquire into, and report on any matter relating to the Standing Orders or the procedures of the House and its committees.

## Speaker's foreword

The Committee's first report of 2016 recommends changes to the Routine of Business to re-schedule, and in some cases, extend periods of Government Business. Members should note however, that these changes do not reduce the amount of time provided for Private Members' Business and the time provided for Community Recognition Statements actually increases.

On a Tuesday, where the House currently adjourns at 7.45 p.m. the proposed routine would allow for Government Business to be considered from around 4.00 p.m., after the conclusion of the Motion Accorded Priority, until around 9.30 p.m. when the House would hear Private Members' Statements before adjourning at 10.00 p.m.

The Matter of Public Importance, currently discussed on a Tuesday would move to Thursday afternoon.

On a Wednesday afternoon, it is proposed that Government Business resumes after the conclusion of the Motion Accorded Priority and continues, without interruption for dinner, until the House adjourns at around 10.00 p.m. after Private Members' Statements and the Matter of Public Importance.

On a Thursday, the House would consider Government Business in the morning after Notices of Motions, instead of after Question Time. The time provided for Members to consider bills and motions on a Thursday would remain the same, commencing after Government Business and concluding at 1.30 p.m. Debate on committee reports would move to the afternoon, following Question Time.

After committee reports, the House would discuss the Matter of Public Importance (re-scheduled from the Tuesday) before taking Community Recognition Statements until 4.30 p.m. when the Petition discussion takes place.

If the 30 minutes allocated to Community Recognition Statements (CRS's) has not expired by 4.30 p.m., any remaining time will be available for statements after the conclusion of the petition discussion. Conversely, if CRS's conclude before 4.30 p.m. then Private Members' Statements would be taken until the commencement of the petition discussion and then continue after the discussion. The House would then adjourn.

These changes to the routine have consequential effects on individual sessional orders, and where necessary the Committee has also taken the opportunity to make minor changes to improve the construction of certain rules. These are highlighted in the report.

I commend the report and its recommendations to the House.



**The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**  
Chair

# List of recommendations

## **RECOMMENDATION 1**

That the House adopt the proposed changes to the Sessional Orders.





# Chapter One – Changes to the Sessional Orders

## SO 97: ROUTINE OF BUSINESS

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>97.</b> The House shall conduct its business in the following routine:</p> <p><u>Tuesdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Private Members' Statements</li> <li>4. At 1.30 p.m. the Speaker leaves the Chair</li> <li>5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li>6. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence)</li> <li>8. Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority</li> <li>9. Question Time</li> <li>10. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>11. Papers</li> <li>12. Committees – Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries</li> <li>13. Petitions</li> <li>14. Announcement of Matter of Public Importance</li> <li>15. Placing or Disposal of Business</li> <li>16. Motion Accorded Priority</li> <li>17. Business with Precedence</li> <li>18. At 4.00 p.m. Business before the House is interrupted for Government Business. Any interrupted business lapses except when the House is considering Business with Precedence which shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow</li> <li>19. At 7.00 p.m. Business before the House is interrupted for Private Members' Statements. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed</li> <li>20. Matter of Public Importance</li> </ol>	<p><b>97.</b> The House shall conduct its business in the following routine:</p> <p><u>Tuesdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Private Members' Statements, then the Speaker leaves the Chair</li> <li>4. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li>5. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>6. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)</li> <li>7. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority</li> <li>8. Question Time</li> <li>9. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>10. Papers</li> <li>11. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements</li> <li>12. Petitions</li> <li>13. Placing or Disposal of Business</li> <li>14. Motion Accorded Priority</li> <li>15. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any</li> <li>16. Government Business</li> <li>17. Private Members' Statements</li> <li>18. Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements, if concluded before 10.00 p.m.</li> </ol> <p><u>Wednesdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Government Business</li> <li>4. At 1.15 p.m. Community Recognition Statements for up to 20 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair</li> </ol>

<p>21. Adjournment at 7.45 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance, if concluded before 7.45 p.m.</p> <p><u>Wednesdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Government Business concluding at 1.15 p.m. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for a later hour of the day. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed</li> <li>4. Community Recognition Statements concluding at 1.35 p.m.</li> <li>5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li>6. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence, and notices to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)</li> <li>8. Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority</li> <li>9. Question Time</li> <li>10. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>11. Papers</li> <li>12. Committees – Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries</li> <li>13. Petitions</li> <li>14. Announcement of Matter of Public Importance</li> <li>15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)</li> <li>16. Placing or Disposal of Business</li> <li>17. Motion Accorded Priority</li> <li>18. Business with Precedence</li> <li>19. At 4.00 p.m. business before the House is interrupted for Government Business. Any interrupted business lapses except when the House is considering Business with Precedence which shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow</li> <li>20. At 6.30 p.m. the Speaker leaves the Chair. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for a later time. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed</li> <li>21. At 7.00 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li>6. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, and General Business Notices of Motion to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)</li> <li>8. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority</li> <li>9. Question Time</li> <li>10. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>11. Papers</li> <li>12. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements</li> <li>13. Petitions</li> <li>14. Placing or Disposal of Business</li> <li>15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)</li> <li>16. Motion Accorded Priority</li> <li>17. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any</li> <li>18. Government Business</li> <li>19. Private Members’ Statements</li> <li>20. Matter of Public Importance</li> <li>21. Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance, if concluded before 10.00 p.m.</li> </ol> <p><u>Thursdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Government Business for up to 30 minutes</li> <li>4. General Business Notices of Motions for Bills for up to 20 minutes</li> <li>5. General Business Orders of the Day for Bills for up to 60 minutes</li> <li>6. General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills) up to 1.30 p.m., then the Speaker leaves the Chair</li> <li>7. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li>8. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>9. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)</li> <li>10. Question Time</li> <li>11. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>12. Papers</li> </ol>
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<p>22. Private Members' Statements</p> <p>23. Government Business concluding at 9.45 p.m. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed</p> <p>24. Matter of Public Importance</p> <p>25. Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance if concluded before 10.00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Thursdays</u></p> <p>1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair</p> <p>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</p> <p>3. General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (concluding not later than 10.30 a.m.) Any interrupted item of Business shall be set down as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of other General Business Notices of Motions for Bills</p> <p>4. General Business Orders of the Day for Bills (concluding not later than 11.30 a.m. or after the expiry of 60 minutes from the commencement of General Business Orders of the Day for Bills if commenced earlier than 10.30 a.m.) Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption, a division is in progress, that division shall be completed</p> <p>5. General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills) concluding at 1.00 p.m. Any interrupted business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of other General Business (not being Bills). If at the time of interruption a division is in progress that division and any other division(s) to determine the matter shall be completed</p> <p>6. At 1.00 p.m. consideration of tabled committee reports concluding at 1.30 p.m. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow</p> <p>7. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</p> <p>8. Ministerial Statements</p> <p>9. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence)</p>	<p>13. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements</p> <p>14. Petitions</p> <p>15. Placing or Disposal of Business</p> <p>16. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any</p> <p>17. Committee Reports – Take note debates for a period of up to 30 minutes</p> <p>18. Matter of Public Importance</p> <p>19. Community Recognition Statements</p> <p>20. At 4.30 p.m., Business of the House – Petitions</p> <p>21. Community Recognition Statements (if not completed)</p> <p>22. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day</p>
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STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE  
CHANGES TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Question Time</li><li>11. Ministerial Statements</li><li>12. Papers</li><li>13. Committees – Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries</li><li>14. Petitions</li><li>15. Placing or Disposal of Business</li><li>16. Business with Precedence</li><li>17. Government Business</li><li>18. At 4.30 p.m. business before the House is interrupted for Business of the House – Petitions. Any interrupted item of Business with Precedence or Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.</li><li>19. Community Recognition Statements</li><li>20. Private Members' Statements after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.</li></ol>	
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**Routine of Business – Standing Order 97**

	TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY
		10.00 a.m.	Meeting of House	10.00 a.m.	Meeting of House
			Notices of Motions (General Business)		Notices of Motions (General Business)
12.00 noon	Meeting of House		Government Business		Government Business (up to 30 mins)
	Notices of Motions (General Business)			General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (up to 20 mins)	
	Private Members' Statements			General Business Orders of the Day for Bills (up to 60 mins)	
				General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills)	
		1.15 p.m.		Community Recognition Statements (up to 20 mins)	
1.30 p.m.	Lunch	1.35 p.m.	Lunch	1.30 p.m.	Lunch
2.15 p.m.	Routine of Business and Question Time	2.15 p.m.	Routine of Business and Question Time (Re-ordering of General Business – Bills and General Notices)	2.15 p.m.	Routine of Business and Question Time
	Motion Accorded Priority and Business with Precedence		Motion Accorded Priority and Business with Precedence		Business with Precedence
	Government Business		Government Business		Committee Reports (Take Note Debate) (up to 30 mins)
					Matter of Public Importance
					Community Recognition Statements (up to 30 mins)
					At 4.30 p.m. Discussion on petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons
					Community Recognition Statements (if not completed)
					Private Members' Statements
					Private Members' Statements
	Private Members' Statements		Matter of Public Importance		
At 10.00 p.m.	Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements	At 10.00 p.m.	Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance		

**SO 35: BELLS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>35.</b> The timing for bells is as follows:</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u>                      Bells are rung at 11.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 11.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u>                      Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>Thursday</u>                      Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>After lunch</u>                      Bells are rung at 2.00 p.m. for 20 seconds and at 2.13 p.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>After dinner</u>                      Bells are rung at 6.58 p.m. for 20 seconds.</p> <p><u>Division</u>                      First bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; second bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; third bell 20 seconds. The doors are locked four minutes after the bells are first rung.</p> <p><u>Quorum</u>                      One long continuous bell (for up to four minutes until a quorum is present in the Chamber).</p> <p><u>House adjournment</u>                      Two short bells.</p> <p><u>One long bell</u>                      A continuous bell rung at the discretion of the Chair.</p>	<p><b>35.</b> The timing for bells is as follows:</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u>                      Bells are rung at 11.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 11.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u>                      Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>Thursday</u>                      Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>After lunch</u>                      Bells are rung at 2.00 p.m. for 20 seconds and at 2.13 p.m. for 60 seconds.</p> <p><u>Division</u>                      First bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; second bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; third bell 20 seconds. The doors are locked four minutes after the bells are first rung.</p> <p><u>Quorum</u>                      One long continuous bell (for up to four minutes until a quorum is present in the Chamber).</p> <p><u>House adjournment</u>                      Two short bells.</p> <p><u>One long bell</u>                      A continuous bell rung at the discretion of the Chair.</p>

**SO 45: RESTRICTION ON QUORUM CALLS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>45.</b> Members shall not be permitted to call attention to the want of a quorum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) During Private Members' Statements or Community Recognition Statements;</li> <li>(2) During Matters of Public Importance or the Discussion on a Petition signed by 10,000 or more persons;</li> <li>(3) During the establishment of and debate on a Motion Accorded Priority; or</li> <li>(4) Before 10.30 a.m. on any sitting day.</li> </ul>	<p><b>45.</b> Members shall not be permitted to call attention to the want of a quorum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) During Private Members' Statements or Community Recognition Statements;</li> <li>(2) During Matters of Public Importance or the Discussion on a Petition signed by 10,000 or more persons;</li> <li>(3) During the establishment of and debate on a Motion Accorded Priority;</li> <li>(4) During the take note debate on reports from committees;</li> <li>(5) Before 10.30 a.m. on any sitting day, other than Thursday when a quorum call cannot be made before 10.10 a.m.</li> </ul>

**SO 46: ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>46.</b> Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, at 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday and at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements on Thursday.</p>	<p><b>46.</b> Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements on Tuesday, at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance on Wednesday, and at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements on Thursday.</p>

**SO 108: PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>108.</b> The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>108.</b> The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.</li> </ul>



<p>(2) Up to 47 Private Members’ Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.</p> <p>(3) Private Members’ Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.</p> <p>(4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members’ Statements.</p> <p>(5) The House shall adjourn without motion moved until the next sitting day:</p> <p>(a) At the conclusion of Private Members’ Statements when it is the last item on the day’s Routine of Business and concludes earlier than the time set for adjournment; or</p> <p>(b) At the time set by the routine of business for adjournment.</p>	<p>(2) Up to 47 Private Members’ Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.</p> <p>(3) Private Members’ Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.</p> <p>(4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members’ Statements.</p>
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**SO 108A: COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>108A.</b> The procedure for Community Recognition Statements is as follows:</p> <p>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker will ask if there are any Community Recognition Statements.</p> <p>(2) Within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, Members may give Community Recognition Statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 20 minutes.</p> <p>(3) Members may not give consecutive Community Recognition Statements.</p>	<p><b>108A.</b> The procedure for Community Recognition Statements is as follows:</p> <p>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker will ask if there are any Community Recognition Statements.</p> <p>(2) Members may make Community Recognition Statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 20 minutes on Wednesday and 30 minutes on Thursday.</p> <p>(3) Members may not give consecutive Community Recognition Statements.</p>

<p>(4) Community Recognition Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.</p> <p>(5) Community Recognition Statements must not contain:</p> <p>(a) Matters of policy;</p> <p>(b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or</p> <p>(c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.</p> <p>(6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Community Recognition Statements.</p>	<p>(4) Community Recognition Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.</p> <p>(5) Community Recognition Statements must not contain:</p> <p>(a) Matters of policy;</p> <p>(b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or</p> <p>(c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.</p> <p>(6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Community Recognition Statements.</p>
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**SO 109: MOTIONS ACCORDED PRIORITY**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>109.</b> The procedure for consideration of Motions Accorded Priority shall be as follows:</p> <p>(1) Prior to Question Time on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Speaker shall ask if there are any written notices of motions to be accorded priority over the other business of the House.</p> <p>(2) No more than two notices shall be accepted at any one sitting of the House.</p> <p>(3) The notices shall be set down for consideration later in the sitting in accordance with the Routine of Business.</p>	<p><b>109.</b> The procedure for consideration of Motions Accorded Priority shall be as follows:</p> <p>(1) Prior to Question Time on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Speaker shall ask if there are any written notices of motions to be accorded priority over the other business of the House.</p> <p>(2) No more than two notices shall be accepted at any one sitting of the House.</p> <p>(3) The notices shall be set down for consideration later in the sitting in accordance with the Routine of Business.</p>

<p>(4) (a) The Members giving the notices shall each be permitted to make statements of up to 3 minutes as to why their notice should be accorded priority. No points of order regarding the scope or substance of the notice, or a quorum call will be entertained during the 3 minutes provided for the statement.</p> <p>(b) At the conclusion of the 3 minute statements the Speaker shall put the question on the first notice <b>“That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority”</b>.</p> <p>(c) If the motion to accord priority is carried the Member may proceed to move their motion.</p> <p>(d) If the first motion to accord priority is not carried, the Speaker will then put the question on the second motion <b>“That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority”</b>.</p> <p>(5) When the motion for priority is determined and the motion is moved, the following time limits shall apply:          Mover – 5 minutes          Member next speaking – 5 minutes          Two other Members – 3 minutes          Reply – 3 minutes          Total – 19 minutes</p> <p>(6) No quorum call will be permitted during the time set aside for a Motion Accorded Priority.</p> <p>(7) The motion will lapse at the time for interruption unless a division is in progress whereupon that division and any other division(s) to determine the matter shall be completed.</p>	<p>(4) (a) The Members giving the notices shall each be permitted to make statements of up to 3 minutes as to why their notice should be accorded priority. No points of order regarding the scope or substance of the notice, or a quorum call will be entertained during the 3 minutes provided for the statement.</p> <p>(b) At the conclusion of the 3 minute statements the Speaker shall put the question on the first notice <b>“That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority”</b>.</p> <p>(c) If the motion to accord priority is carried the Member may proceed to move their motion.</p> <p>(d) If the first motion to accord priority is not carried, the Speaker will then put the question on the second motion <b>“That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority”</b>.</p> <p>(5) When the motion for priority is determined and the motion is moved, the following time limits shall apply:          Mover – 5 minutes          Member next speaking – 5 minutes          Two other Members – 3 minutes          Reply – 3 minutes          Total – 19 minutes</p> <p>(6) No quorum call will be permitted during the time set aside for a Motion Accorded Priority.</p>
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**SO 110: MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>110.</b> The procedure for Matters of Public Importance within the daily Routine of Business, is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The matter, which must be definite, shall be handed in writing to the Speaker no later than 12.00 noon and immediately published.</li> <li>(2) The Speaker, in the event that more than one matter is submitted, shall determine which matter is of the greatest public importance.</li> <li>(3) At least 30 minutes prior to the time for Question Time – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the responsible Minister in the House, Members submitting matters and the Independent Members shall be informed in writing by the Speaker of the matter determined by the Speaker to be discussed.</li> <li>(b) The Speaker, by placing a notice on notice boards, shall inform Members of the matter.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(4) If the Speaker decides that any matter proposed is in order it shall be announced to the House by the Speaker.</li> <li>(5) As provided in the Routine of Business the Speaker shall call the Member concerned to proceed with the matter. The matter cannot be amended.</li> <li>(6) The following time limits shall apply: Member submitting matter – 5 minutes Member next speaking – 5 minutes One other Member – 3 minutes Reply – 3 minutes Total – 16 minutes</li> <li>(7) At the conclusion of the discussion no question shall be put.</li> <li>(8) There shall be no dissent from the ruling of the Speaker in relation to the operation of this standing order.</li> </ol>	<p><b>110.</b> The procedure for Matters of Public Importance within the daily Routine of Business, is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The matter, which must be definite, shall be handed in writing to the Speaker no later than 12.00 noon and immediately published.</li> <li>(2) The Speaker shall determine whether the matter is in order. In the event that more than one matter is submitted, the Speaker shall determine which matter is of the greatest public importance.</li> <li>(3) There shall be no dissent from the ruling of the Speaker in relation to the operation of this Standing Order.</li> <li>(4) At least 30 minutes prior to the time for Question Time – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the responsible Minister in the House, Members submitting matters and the Independent Members shall be informed in writing of the matter determined by the Speaker to be discussed.</li> <li>(b) The Speaker, by placing a notice on notice boards, shall inform Members of the matter.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(5) As provided in the Routine of Business the Speaker shall call the Member concerned to proceed with the matter. The matter cannot be amended.</li> <li>(6) The following time limits shall apply: Member submitting matter – 5 minutes Member next speaking – 5 minutes One other Member – 3 minutes Reply – 3 minutes Total – 16 minutes</li> <li>(7) At the conclusion of the discussion no question shall be put.</li> <li>(8) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Matters of Public Importance.</li> </ol>

<p>(9) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Matters of Public Importance.</p>	
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**SO 187: RESTRICTION ON DIVISIONS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>187.</b> The House shall not conduct a division on any question before 10.30 a.m. on days when the House meets at an earlier time, during Private Members’ Statements, Community Recognition Statements, Matters of Public Importance or the discussion on a petition signed by 10,000 or more persons. If a division is called prior to 10.30 a.m. on such days, the division shall be deferred and conducted at 10.30 a.m. and any business then before the House shall be interrupted and recommenced after the division(s).</p>	<p><b>187.</b> The House shall not conduct a division on any question before 10.30 a.m. on days when the House meets at an earlier time, or before 10.10 a.m. on Thursday, during Private Members’ Statements, Community Recognition Statements, Matters of Public Importance, or the discussion on a petition signed by 10,000 or more persons. If a division is called prior to 10.30 a.m. on such days, the division shall be deferred and conducted at 10.30 a.m. and any business then before the House shall be interrupted and recommenced after the division(s).</p>

**SO 306: COMMITTEE REPORTS, TABLING IN THE HOUSE AND DEBATE**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>306.</b></p> <p>(1) The report and associated documents of any committee (not being a legislation committee) shall be presented at the time provided in the routine of business, or at any other time with the leave of the House.</p> <p>(2) The Member presenting the report may move <b>“That the document be printed”</b>. This question shall be decided without debate or amendment.</p> <p>(3) Reports from committees shall stand in the order in which they are presented (or reported by the Clerk when received during an adjournment) as Orders of the Day <b>“That the House take note of the Report”</b>.</p>	<p><b>306.</b></p> <p>(1) The report and associated documents of any committee (not being a legislation committee or the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee) shall be presented at the time provided in the Routine of Business, or at any other time with the leave of the House.</p> <p>(2) The Member presenting the report may move <b>“That the document be printed”</b>. This question shall be decided without debate or amendment.</p> <p>(3) Reports from committees (not being reports of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee) shall stand in the order in which they are presented (or reported by the Clerk when received during an adjournment) as Orders of the Day <b>“That the House take note of the Report”</b>.</p>

<p>(4) Such Orders of the Day may be considered between 1.00 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. on Thursdays. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.</p> <p>(5) Debate on an Order of the Day may be adjourned and the resumption of the debate set down as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.</p> <p>(6) When the Order of the Day is called on and not proceeded with, consideration of the report shall be postponed until the next Thursday sitting when reports are considered. If the Order of the Day is called on at that subsequent sitting and is not proceeded with, the question shall be put.</p> <p>(7) If a committee has more than one report on the Business Paper, the Chair or Member who tabled the report may move a motion without notice, amendment or debate to facilitate the consideration of two or more of the committee's reports together.</p> <p>(8) The Member tabling the report may speak for up to 6 minutes and any other Member may speak for up to 4 minutes to the question <b>"That the House take note of the Report"</b> with the question being put after 22 minutes. No reply is permitted.</p>	<p>(4) Such Orders of the Day may be considered at the time allocated in the Routine of Business on Thursday for a period of up to 30 minutes. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.</p> <p>(5) Debate on an Order of the Day may be adjourned and the resumption of the debate set down as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.</p> <p>(6) When the Order of the Day is called on and not proceeded with, consideration of the report shall be postponed until the next Thursday sitting when reports are considered. If the Order of the Day is called on at that subsequent sitting and is not proceeded with, the question shall be put.</p> <p>(7) If a committee has more than one report on the Business Paper, the Chair or Member who tabled the report may move a motion without notice, amendment or debate to facilitate the consideration of two or more of the committee's reports together.</p> <p>(8) The Member tabling the report may speak for up to 6 minutes and any other Member may speak for up to 4 minutes to the question <b>"That the House take note of the Report"</b> with the question being put after 22 minutes. No reply is permitted.</p>
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## Appendix One – Extracts from Minutes

### **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee**

5.30 pm, Tuesday 22 March 2016

Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mr Stephen Bromhead MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Andrew Fraser MP

The Hon. Thomas George MP

Ms Noreen Hay MP

Mr Nick Lulich MP

Mr Chris Patterson MP

Mr Greg Piper MP

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP

#### **1. Apologies - Mr Coure**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Bromhead, seconded by Mr Fraser:

“That the apologies be accepted”.

#### **2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 2 held on 17 November 2015**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Bromhead, seconded by Mr Roberts:

“That the minutes of Meeting No. 2 be confirmed”.

#### **3. Recommendations made by the Committee in its report of 19 November 2015**

The Committee reviewed its November 2015 Sessional Order recommendations, yet to be adopted by the House. Members noted that the proposed further changes to Sessional Orders under Item 4 include the Committee's November recommendations to the Routine of Business, Motion Accorded Priority and committee reports Sessional Orders.

#### **4. Consideration of proposed changes to Sessional Orders**

The Chair invited Members to discuss proposed changes to the Routine of Business Sessional Order and consequential changes to related sessional orders. Discussion ensued.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Fraser, seconded by Mr Piper:

"That the proposed changes to Sessional Orders be amended by changing the restrictions on quorum calls and divisions on a Thursday, from none before 10:30 a.m. to none before 10:10 a.m."

Resolved on the motion of Mr Bromhead, seconded by Mr Lalich:

"That the proposed changes to Sessional Orders be amended by providing up to 20 minutes for Community Recognition Statements on a Wednesday and up to 30 minutes on a Thursday."

It was then resolved on the motion of Mr Fraser, seconded by Mr Lalich:

"That the proposed changes to Sessional Orders, as amended, be adopted as part of the Committee's report."

The Committee then resolved on the motion of Mr Bromhead, seconded by Mr Patterson:

"That the changes to Sessional Orders, as adopted by the Committee, be the report of the Committee.

That it be signed by the Chair and presented to the House; and that once tabled the report be published on the Committee's webpage.

...

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 6.20 pm, *sine die*.