



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FACT SHEETS

FACT SHEET 18: THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Generally speaking, the House can be adjourned only by its own resolution. The adjournment of the House to terminate a sitting may be moved at any time by a Minister.¹

Under standing order 31, provision is made for a debate on the motion for the termination of the sitting of the House. The whole debate is limited to 30 minutes, during which time a member may speak on almost any matter² for up to five minutes.

The debate provides members with an opportunity to bring pressing matters before the House and to the attention of the Government (in much the same way as private members' statements in the Legislative Assembly).

Under standing order 33 a Minister may, before the House proceeds to the business of the day, make a statement in relation to any matter raised on the adjournment at a previous sitting. There is no time limit imposed on the Minister in reply.

¹ Under SO 25 a parliamentary secretary may act as a Minister in the House in all respects, except in relation to answering questions with and without notice. It is therefore not unusual for the motion for the adjournment of the House to be moved by a parliamentary secretary.

² The normal rules of debate, other than relevancy still apply and successive rulings from the Chair have determined that only matters which arise suddenly, are of a temporary nature and require immediate action, and which can be dealt with by administrative action of the Government may be debated on the motion for the adjournment.