



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION

NO. 5/2015: 25 – 27 AUGUST 2015

August 2015				
M	T	W	T	F
24	25	26	27	28

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

Speaker's statement on Millicent Preston-Stanley

On 26 August 2015, the Speaker made a statement marking the 90th anniversary of the inaugural speech of Miss Millicent Preston-Stanley, the first female Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Elected in 1925 as the Nationalist Party Member for the Eastern Suburbs, Miss Preston-Stanley rejected the view that women should be protected from the "hurly-burly" of politics, arguing that, as taxpayers and workers, women were touched by every "turn of the political wheel".

Biographical information for Miss Preston-Stanley may be viewed in the former Members section of the Parliament's [website](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 26/8/2015, p. 276.

Hansard: 26/8/2015, p. 2910.

Question ruled out of order during Question Time

During Question Time on 26 August 2015, the Speaker ruled that a question to the Treasurer concerning Liberal Party pre-selections was not in order and invited the Member to rephrase it.

Hansard: 26/8/2015, pp. 2917-8.

Standing Orders 126, 128 and 131.

(Procedural note: Questions may be asked of Ministers in relation to public affairs, matters under the Minister's administration, or proceedings pending in the House for which the Minister has carriage. Questions should not ask for an expression of opinion or concern matters outside the administration of the Minister).

Additional Members speak in a discussion on a petition

On 27 August 2015, Members discussed a petition signed by 10,000 or more persons, requesting an alternative route for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway to protect the koala population of the Blackwall Range area.

Following contributions from the four speakers provided for in the Standing Orders, an additional three Members spoke, by leave.

Votes and Proceedings: 27/8/2015, pp. 286-7.

Hansard: 27/8/2015, pp. 3066-71.

Standing Order 96.

Sessional Order 125A.

(Procedural note: Petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons are scheduled for discussion in the House on Thursday afternoons. The Standing Orders provide that four Members may speak in the 16 minute discussion. If any additional Members wish to contribute to the discussion, they must first seek leave to do so.

The granting of leave, pursuant to Standing Order 96, means that the House gives its permission for something to occur which would not otherwise be permissible. A request for leave cannot be debated, nor can leave be granted if any one Member dissents).

COMMITTEES

Standing Orders and Procedure Committee

On 27 August 2015, the Speaker tabled the report of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee entitled “Changes to the Standing and Sessional Orders, and the Citizens’ Right of Reply Procedure”

The report recommends minor changes to the Standing and Sessional Orders, as well as amendments to the resolution providing for a Citizens’ Right of Reply procedure.

A copy of the report may be viewed on the Committee’s [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 27/8/2015, p. 285.

Hansard: 27/8/2015, p. 3055.

Standing Order 265.

(Procedural note: The Committee considered most of these changes to be necessary in order to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors. In some instances, minor changes were considered necessary in order to update the rules so that they accurately reflect changes which have occurred in parliamentary practice.

For example, it is proposed that Standing Orders 2 and 23 be amended so that Members have the option of making a “pledge of loyalty or oath”. Those amendments, if agreed to by the House, would reflect the changes made to s12 of the *Constitution Act* in the 55th Parliament. This allows Members of Parliament and Ministers the option of making an oath, or affirmation of allegiance, to the Sovereign as an alternative to the pledge of loyalty to Australia and the people of New South Wales).