



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION
NO. 1/2020: 4 - 6 FEBRUARY 2020

February 2020

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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

Condolence motion – 2019-2020 bushfire season

On Tuesday 4 February 2020 the Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, moved a motion that the House:

- (1) Expresses its deepest condolences to the families, communities and loved ones of the 25 men and women who have tragically lost their lives during the catastrophic and unprecedented 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- (2) Honours the extraordinary sacrifice of Geoffrey Keaton, Andrew O'Dwyer and Samuel McPaul, Rural Fire Service volunteers who tragically lost their lives while protecting the lives and property of others.
- (3) Places on the record its gratitude for the courage of Captain Ian McBeth, First Officer Paul Hudson and Flight Engineer Rick DeMorgan Jr of Coulson Aviation and the United States of America, who died in service to New South Wales.
- (4) Offers its sympathy to those who have been affected by the fires whether through injury or the loss of or damage to their homes or livelihoods.
- (5) Acknowledges the devastation caused by this season's bushfires, which has already seen 2,400 homes destroyed, over 11,000 buildings lost or damaged, 5.5 million hectares burnt, countless local businesses affected and hundreds of millions of animals killed.

The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Ms Jodi McKay MP, and supported by seventy nine other Members who each spoke in the debate.

Debate on the motion was adjourned immediately before the House adjourned at 7.07 pm on Thursday 6 February.

The extended time given to debating the motion was provided for by suspending Standing and Sessional Orders. On Tuesday 4 February, the Leader of the House, the Hon. Andrew Constance MP, moved that Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended to provide for the consideration of the condolence motion in place of general business and government business and for there to be no public interest debates for the duration of the sitting week. The motion was agreed to on the voices.

A further suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders was moved by the Acting Leader of the House, the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, on Thursday 6 February, to enable the condolence motion to be debated in place of private members statements and community recognition statements that day (but retaining the petition debate at 4.00 pm). This motion was also agreed to on the voices.

Votes and Proceedings: 4/4/20, pp. 525-6, p. 536; 5/4/20, pp. 539-40, pp. 541-2; 6/2/20, pp. 543-4, pp. 546-8.

Standing Orders 97 and 365.

(Procedural note: Standing and Sessional Orders govern the way the House operates and conducts its business. To make allowance for an event or activity not provided for in the Standing Orders, Standing and Sessional Orders may be suspended. In this case Standing and Sessional Orders were suspended to circumvent the Assembly's Routine of Business so that much of the first sitting week could be devoted to debating the condolence motion, in recognition of the scale of the 2019-2020 bushfires.)

Letters from the Parliaments of Scotland and Wales

On Tuesday 4 February 2020, the Speaker tabled the following letters:

- From the Right Honourable Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, to the Honourable Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dated 9 January 2020
- From Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer, and Ann Jones AM, Deputy Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales, to the Honourable Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dated 8 January 2020

The letters expressed the sympathies and condolences of the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments to the people of NSW regarding the 2019-2020 bushfires.

Votes and Proceedings: 6/4/20, pp. 526-7.

Standing Order 264.

(Procedural note: Tabling a document is a formal presentation of that document to Parliament. Standing Order 264 provides that papers may be 'laid upon the Table' by the Speaker, Ministers, Chairs of committees, the Clerk, statutory provision, resolution of the House or the command of the Governor. Tabling a document ensures the information contained in the document becomes available to all Members and to the public. Documents tabled in the Legislative Assembly are recorded in the Votes and Proceedings on the date they are tabled and are made available on the Legislative Assembly's 'Tabled Papers and Reports' webpage. The letters from the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments can be found on the 'Tabled Papers and Reports' webpage [here](#).)