



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION

NO. 10/2016: 8 – 17 NOVEMBER 2016

October 2016				
M	T	W	T	F
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18

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.

BILLS

Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Bill 2016

On 15 November 2016, in accordance with a suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders earlier in the day, the Premier introduced the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Bill 2016*, notice of which was given that day.

The object of the bill is to change the structure, management and procedures of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the most notable change being the establishment of a panel of three Commissioners (a Chief Commissioner and two other Commissioners) to constitute the Commission. Under the new structure any decision of the ICAC to conduct an inquiry will have to be authorised by the Chief Commissioner and at least one other Commissioner.

The bill gives effect to the recommendations contained in the [report](#), dated 27 October 2016, of the parliamentary Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, entitled *Review of the Independent Commission Against Corruption: Consideration of the Inspector's reports*.

The details of the bill can be found on the Parliament of NSW [website](#).

Following the Premier's second reading speech, 11 Members spoke in the debate, Opposition amendments were moved and negatived on division, and the bill was passed by the Assembly and forwarded to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

Votes and Proceedings: 15/11/2016, pp. 1004-5, pp. 1010-3.

Hansard (Proof): 15/11/2016, pp. 39-42, pp. 61-83.

Standing Orders 188, 203 and 365.

BUSINESS

Tabling of papers by announcement

On 8 November 2016 Standing and Sessional Orders were suspended for the remainder of the 2016 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 this arrangement any papers announced must have first been lodged with the Table Office beforehand.

Votes and Proceedings: 8/11/2016, p. 968.

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.)

Centenary of ANZAC motion

On 10 November 2016 the Legislative Assembly passed a motion noting the Centenary of ANZAC. The motion was first moved on 7 May 2015 and since that time 33 Members had spoken in the debate.

Votes and Proceedings: 10/11/2016, p. 991.

Standing Orders 142, 151 and 152.

Christmas felicitations

On 17 November 2016, the last sitting day before Christmas, in accordance with a suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders the previous week, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other Members offered their Christmas felicitations.

The suspension motion also provided for certain business displaced by the Christmas felicitations, which would normally be considered on Thursday afternoons, to be considered earlier in the week on Tuesday 15 November 2016.

Votes and Proceedings: 10/11/2016, pp. 996-7; 17/11/2016 p. 1038.

Hansard: 17/11/2016 pp. 44-53, pp. 56-68.

Standing Orders 97 and 365.

(Procedural note: On a motion, Christmas felicitations are an annual opportunity for Members to offer their best wishes and thanks to parliamentary colleagues and staff.)

Adjournment of the House

On 17 November 2016, in accordance with a motion moved earlier in the day by the Leader of the House, the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 6.15 pm until Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 12.00 noon.

Votes and Proceedings: 17/11/2016, p. 1037.

Standing Order 34.

CHAMBER

Disorder from the Public Gallery

On 10 November 2016, during a discussion of a petition signed by 10,000 or more persons, a Temporary Speaker directed that the Public Gallery be cleared of spectators, due to persons in the Public Gallery repeatedly interjecting and interrupting the orderly conduct of business.

On 15 November 2016, just before Question Time, the Speaker directed that a couple be removed from the Public Gallery for interrupting the orderly conduct of business by interjecting and unfurling a banner.

Votes and Proceedings: 10/11/2016, p. 999; 15/11/2016, p. 1002.

Hansard (Proof): 10/11/2016, p. 60; 15/11/2016, p. 16.

Standing Order 260.

(Procedural note: It is fundamental to the operation of the Legislative Assembly that it is able to exercise control over its own proceedings. Accordingly, the Assembly, or its designated officers, have the right to take protective, non-punitive measures to ensure the conduct of orderly business. These rights are specified in Chapter 21 of the Standing Orders, in particular:

- Standing Orders 258 and 259, which provide for the House and Chair to order the withdrawal visitors from the Chamber; and
- Standing Order 260, which provides for the Chair to direct the Serjeant-at-Arms to remove any persons interrupting the orderly conduct of the House.

The approach that is taken in the Legislative Assembly is that all instances of disorder are managed on an individual basis, taking into account all the relevant circumstances. In some cases the very first instance of disorder may be so serious that only the strictest sanction (i.e. clearing the Public Gallery) is appropriate. In other cases a rising scale of warnings from the Chair might be issued prior to taking any action.)

PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS

Department of the Legislative Assembly and Department of Parliamentary Services annual reports

On 17 November 2016 the Speaker tabled the annual reports of the Department of the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services for the year ended 30 June 2016.

See the Department of the Legislative Assembly annual report [here](#).

See the Department of Parliamentary Services annual report [here](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 17/11/2016, pp. 1033-4.

Standing Order 265.