



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION

NO. 3/2017: 28 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2017

| March/April 2017 | | | | |
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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.

BILLS

Greyhound Racing Bill 2017

On 28 March 2017 the Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing introduced the *Greyhound Racing Bill 2017*. The objects of the bill were:

- to regulate greyhound racing and to provide for the welfare of greyhounds;
- to constitute the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission and to reconstitute Greyhound Racing New South Wales; and
- to repeal the *Greyhound Racing Prohibition Act 2016* and the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009*.

Debate on the bill was adjourned at the conclusion of the Minister's second reading speech.

On 4 April 2017 debate on the bill resumed with 25 Members making contributions. At the conclusion of the debate the bill's second reading was agreed to on division. The House then considered a proposed amendment to the bill moved by Ms Jenny Leong MP, which was negatived on division. The bill was then passed by the Legislative Assembly and forwarded to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

On 6 April 2017 the Council returned the bill to the Assembly with an amendment, which was agreed to, after which the bill passed the Parliament and was assented to on 11 April 2017.

The full details of the [bill](#), along with details of its passage through both Houses, can be found on the Parliament of NSW website.

Votes and Proceedings: 28/3/2017, p. 1129; 4/4/2017, pp. 1157-8; 6/4/2017, pp. 1165-6.

Hansard (Proof): 4/4/2017, pp. 33-71.

Standing Orders 188, 203, 222, 223 and 239.

Two Members seek to have bills declared urgent

On 30 March 2017 Mr Clayton Barr MP moved that his Private Member's Bill, the *Land and Property Information NSW (Authorised Transaction) Repeal Bill 2017*, be considered an urgent bill. The motion was negated on division and debate was adjourned.

The next week, on 6 April 2017, Mr Ryan Park MP moved that his Private Members' Bill, the *Securing NSW Steel Industry Bill 2017*, be considered an urgent bill. As with the previous week, the motion was negated on division and debate was adjourned.

Votes and Proceedings: 30/3/2017, pp. 1146-7; 6/4/2017, pp. 1167-8.

Standing Orders 80 and 189.

(Procedural note: Any Member in charge of a bill may move that it be considered as an urgent bill, provided that copies of the bill have been made available to Members prior to moving the motion (Standing Order 189). A motion that a bill be considered urgent is dealt with immediately and is not open to debate nor amendment.

If a motion that a bill be considered urgent is passed by the House, the second reading debate and other stages may be proceeded with forthwith or at any time during the time set aside for Government Business or General Business, depending on whether it is a bill introduced by a Minister or by a Private Member.)

BUSINESS

Two Motions Accorded Priority debated on the same day

On 4 April 2017 the Legislative Assembly agreed to suspend Standing and Sessional Orders to permit the consideration of two notices of motions to be accorded priority, given by Mr Mark Coure MP and Mr Guy Zangari MP, respectively.

In accordance with the suspension, Mr Coure's motion on the construction of the M4 – M5 WestConnex Stage 3 link was debated first, followed by Mr Zangari's motion on the North Coast floods. Both motions were agreed to by the Assembly on the voices.

Votes and Proceedings: 4/4/2017, p. 1155, pp. 1156-7.

Standing Orders 109 and 365.

(Procedural note: Standing Order 109 states that if two notices of motions to be accorded priority are received by the Speaker (the maximum allowable), the notices are set down for consideration later in the sitting.

Shortly after Question Time Members are called on to argue why their motion should be accorded priority over the other business of the House. Members have up to three minutes each to state their reasons.

After the statements, the House will vote on whether either motion will be accorded priority. Generally one of the two motions will be debated.)

SPEAKER

Speaker's statement on the Westminster terrorist incident

On 28 March 2017 the Speaker made a statement in relation to the terrorist incident at Westminster in the United Kingdom on 22 March 2017. At the conclusion of the statement Members and officers stood as a mark of respect.

Votes and Proceedings: 28/3/2017, p. 1117.

Hansard (Proof): 28/3/2017, p. 14.

ELECTIONS

By-elections for three electorates

On 28 March 2017 the Speaker informed the House that, on 17 March 2017, she had issued writs for by-elections for the electoral districts of Gosford, Manly and North Shore, with the following details:

Nomination day – Thursday 23 March 2017

Polling day – Saturday 8 April 2017

Return of writs – Tuesday 16 May 2017

The by-elections were necessitated by the resignations of Ms Kathy Smith, Mr Mike Baird and Ms Jillian Skinner from the Legislative Assembly.

Votes and Proceedings: 28/3/2017, p. 1118.

(Procedural note: Section 70 of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* states that the Speaker issues writs to fill vacancies occurring as a result of the resignation, death or expulsion of Members.

The dates of by-elections are determined by the Speaker, in consultation with the Electoral Commissioner, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

Once the outcome of a by-election has been determined, the result is declared by the returning officer in the electorate and the writ is forwarded to the Electoral Commissioner, who then returns it to the Speaker.)

MEMBERS

Parliamentary Ethics Advisor

On 5 April 2017 the Speaker tabled correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Advisor to Mr Adrian Piccoli MP, a former Minister for Education, providing advice to Mr Piccoli about taking up a position with the University of NSW after ceasing to be a Minister.

Votes and Proceedings: 5/4/2017, pp. 1160-1.

Standing Order 264.

(Procedural note: The Parliamentary Ethics Adviser's (PEA) functions are to provide advice, on request, to Members of Parliament on ethical issues, and to Ministers on post-separation employment.

If the PEA becomes aware that a Minister or a former Minister has accepted a position on which he has given advice, the PEA must provide a copy of the advice to the Presiding Officer of the House to which the Minister or former Minister belongs or belonged. In the case of current or former Legislative Assembly Ministers, the Speaker may then table the PEA's correspondence in the House in accordance with the tabling provisions of Standing Order 264.)

COMMITTEES

Inquiry into protections for people who make voluntary disclosures to the Independent Commission Against Corruption

On 28 March 2017 the Deputy Chair of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mr Geoff Provest MP, informed the House that the Committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into protections for people who make voluntary disclosures to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The full details of the inquiry are available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 28/3/2017, p. 1119.

Standing Orders 284 and 299 (1).