



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION

NO. 5/2016: 21 – 23 JUNE 2016

| June 2016 | | | | |
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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

Appropriation Bill and cognate bills

On 21 June 2016 at 12.00 noon the Treasurer introduced the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills (the “Budget”). After the Treasurer’s Budget speech, debate on the bills was adjourned until Thursday 23 June 2016 for the Leader of the Opposition’s speech in reply on the bills.

On 23 June, following the Leader of the Opposition’s speech (at 11.00 am), the bills passed through all remaining stages. The Treasurer then moved that the House take note of the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2016-17 and debate on the motion was set down as an order of the day for a later time.

To facilitate both the Treasurer’s Budget speech and the Leader of the Opposition’s speech in reply the normal Routine of Business was altered by a suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders, agreed to by the House on 2 June 2016. The bills’ passage and the “take note” motion were also provided for by a suspension of Standing and Sessional orders, which was agreed to by the House on 22 June 2016.

Items of routine business “displaced” by the prioritisation of the Budget bills were considered by the House at a later time. For example, on Tuesdays business normally begins with the giving of General Business Notices of Motions. Instead, these were given at the conclusion of Government Business, at approximately 8.54 pm.

Votes and Proceedings: 2/6/2016, p. 731; 21/6/2016, pp. 735-6, p. 743; 22/6/2016, pp. 747-8; 23/6/2016, pp. 754-5.

Hansard (Proof): 23/6/2016, pp. 7-12.

Chapter 16 of the Standing Orders – Bills.
Standing Orders 97, 188, 203 and 365.

(Procedural note: Since the Budget has been brought forward from September to June, it has been the practice of the Legislative Assembly to expedite the passage of the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills for assent by 30 June each year by way of a motion to suspend Standing and Sessional Orders to limit the Members debating the bills to the Treasurer and then the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition's speech in reply on the bills will generally occur on the Thursday after the Treasurer has introduced the bills and given the Budget speech (two days). This is so the Leader of the Opposition has adequate time to prepare a considered response to the bills' content and the Treasurer's speech

All Members then have an opportunity to speak on the Budget via the debate on the motion "That the House take note of the Budget Estimates and related papers".)

Members' Code of Conduct, Ethics/Standards Commissioner and the Interest Disclosure Regime

On 22 June 2016 the Speaker made a statement about correspondence received from the Premier regarding recommendations on the Members' Code of Conduct, an Ethics/Standards Commissioner and the Interest Disclosure Regime contained in two 2014 reports of the Legislative Assembly Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Committee and the Legislative Council Privileges Committee.

In short, the two committees' recommendations were aimed at developing a more robust model for managing Members' conduct, with a focus on ethics, clarity, independent oversight and transparency.

View the Legislative Assembly Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Committee report [here](#).

View the Legislative Council Privileges Committee report [here](#).

The Speaker advised that in the correspondence the Premier indicated that the Government broadly agrees with the direction for reform contained in the reports and requested that the Houses work together to develop a single set of recommendations for consideration. Further, the Premier indicated that the Government was open to considering any other reforms that may assist in improving the integrity, transparency or operations of the Parliament.

The Speaker advised that she had responded to the Premier's correspondence jointly with the President, advising him that the Houses would provide assistance with the matter and outlining the proposed approach to the task.

The Speaker tabled the [Premier's correspondence](#) and the [Presiding Officers' joint response](#) for the information of the House.

Votes and Proceedings: 22/6/2016, p. 745.

Hansard (Proof): 22/6/2016, p. 1

Standing Order 264.

COMMITTEES

Inquiry into workplace arrangements for the point to point transport industry

On 21 June 2016 the Chair of the Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Alistair Henskens MP, informed the House that the Committee had received a referral from the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure to conduct an inquiry into workplace arrangements for the point to point transport industry. The full details of the inquiry are available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 21/6/2016, p. 737.

Standing Order 299 (1).

Inquiry into the review of the Public Interests Disclosures Act 1994

On 23 June 2016 the Chair of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission, Mr Lee Evans MP, informed the House that the Committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into the review of the *Public Interests Disclosures Act 1994*. The full details of the inquiry are available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 2/6/2016, p. 731.

Standing Order 299 (1).