



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION

NO. 6/2016: 2 – 11 AUGUST 2016

August 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.

BILLS

Unproclaimed legislation

On 10 August 2016 the Speaker tabled a list of legislation unproclaimed 90 days after assent.

Votes and Proceedings: 10/8/2016, p. 801.

Standing Order 117.

(Procedural note: Under the *Interpretation Act 1987* the commencement date of an Act is 28 days after it has been assented to by the Governor, unless the bill itself specifies another day.)

Many bills specify that some or all of their provisions will commence on a day indicated by the Governor in a proclamation. In effect, this allows the Executive Government to delay the operation of an Act until administrative arrangements or delegated legislation are in place to allow the Act to operate. It is argued that this provision, while administratively convenient, confers a great deal of power on the Executive and virtually allows it to determine when, if ever, a law passed by the Parliament will come into effect.

In this context the Legislative Assembly makes it transparent which legislation remains unproclaimed 90 days after assent by requiring that a list be tabled on the second sitting day of each new session and then every 15th sitting day after.)

Greyhound Racing Prohibition Bill 2016

On 11 August 2016 the Deputy Premier and Minister for Racing, the Hon. Troy Grant MP, introduced the *Greyhound Racing Prohibition Bill 2016* into the Legislative Assembly one day after the bill had been introduced, debated and passed by the Legislative Council.

The purpose of the bill is to close the greyhound racing industry in New South Wales on 1 July 2017, and in doing so to:

- (a) authorise the Minister to appoint a Greyhound Racing Administrator to wind up greyhound racing in NSW and the affairs of Greyhound Racing NSW;
- (b) enable greyhound racing to continue until the greyhound racing closure date;
- (c) make provision for the welfare of greyhounds affected by the closure of greyhound racing; and
- (d) provide for the repeal of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009* and the dissolution of Greyhound Racing NSW on a proclaimed date after the greyhound racing closure date.

Following the Deputy Premier's second reading speech, debate on the bill was adjourned. It is anticipated that the debate will resume during the next sitting period (23-25 August 2016).

Votes and Proceedings: 11/8/2016, p. 806.

Hansard (Proof): 11/8/2016, pp. 1-6.

Standing Order 229.

BUSINESS

Expert Panel on Political Donations

On 2 August 2016 the Speaker tabled a [letter](#) from the Premier to the Presiding Officers about the Government's implementation of recommendations contained in the *Final Report of the Expert Panel on Political Donations*, dated 24 December 2014.

Votes and Proceedings: 2/8/2016, p. 763.

Standing Order 264.

Crossbench Members ask three questions during Question Time

During Question Time on 11 August 2016, three "crossbench" Members (two Independent Members and one Greens Member) each asked a question. This came about as a result of Opposition Members having walked out of the Chamber some moments earlier.

The third crossbench question was an additional question to the regular allotment of 10 questions per Question Time, which was permitted with the leave of the House.

Votes and Proceedings: 11/8/2016, p. 809.

Hansard (Proof): 11/8/2016, p. 38, p. 40, p. 41.

Standing Order 96 and 131.

(Procedural note: Under the Standing Orders the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to ask the first question during Question Time. After that, any Member may then seek the call to ask a question. The practice is for questions to be asked alternatively between Government and non-Government Members. Crossbench Members are allocated a number of questions each week proportionate to their numbers as part of the non-Government allocation. At present this equates to approximately two questions per sitting week.)

SPEAKER

Appointment of Temporary Speaker

On 2 August 2016 the Speaker obtained the concurrence of the House for Mr Adam Crouch MP to serve as a sixth Temporary Speaker from that day.

Votes and Proceedings: 2/8/2016, p. 761.

Standing Order 19.

(Procedural note: [Standing Order 19](#) provides for the Speaker to nominate up to five Members to serve as Temporary Speakers at the commencement of each Parliament. Temporary Speakers are appointed to exercise the powers and duties of the Speaker in the absence of the Deputy Speaker and Assistant Speaker. There are now five Government Members and one Opposition Member on the panel of Temporary Speakers.)

MEMBERS

Valedictory speech by Ms Noreen Hay MP

On 4 August 2016 the Leader of the House moved that the business of the House be interrupted at 4.30 pm that day to permit Ms Noreen Hay MP to make a valedictory speech. The motion was carried on the voices.

Later that day, in accordance with the motion, Ms Hay made her valedictory speech just after 4.30 pm.

Votes and Proceedings: 4/8/2016, p. 790, p. 791.

Hansard (Proof): 4/8/2016, pp. 54-8.

Standing Orders 63 and 97.

(Procedural note: Retiring Members often make valedictory speeches during their final days in the Parliament. Valedictory speeches provide Members with the opportunity to reflect on their time as a Member of Parliament, and to thank family, friends, colleagues and staff.

Valedictory (and inaugural) speeches are provided for by Standing Order 63, which states that a motion may be moved without notice, amendment or debate for the business before the House to be interrupted at a specified time (but not so as to interrupt a Member speaking) to permit Members to make valedictory or inaugural speeches without a question being before the House. Interrupted business is then resumed on completion of the speech or speeches.

The Standing Order also provides for a time limit of 20 minutes on valedictory and inaugural speeches.)