



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION
NO. 8/2017: 12 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

| September 2017 | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |

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.

MEMBERS

Resignations of three Members

On 12 September 2017 the Speaker advised the House that, on 25 August 2017, she had received a letter from Mr John Robertson resigning his seat as Member for the electoral district of Blacktown, and, on 1 September 2017, she had received a letter from Ms Katrina Hodgkinson resigning her seat as Member for the electoral district of Cootamundra.

On 19 September 2017 the Speaker advised the House that, on 15 September 2017, she had received a letter from Mr Adrian Piccoli resigning his seat as Member for the electoral district of Murray.

In each instance the Leader of the House moved that, in accordance with section 70 of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, the seats of the Members be declared vacant, by reason of their resignations.

The motions were passed on the voices.

Votes and Proceedings: 12/9/2017, p. 1353; 19/9/2017, pp. 1385-6.

(Note: The by-elections for the Blacktown, Cootamundra and Murray electorates will be held on 14 October 2017.)

Valedictory speech by the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP

On 13 September 2017 a Minister moved that the business of the House be interrupted at 4.00 pm that day to permit the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP to make a valedictory speech. The motion was passed on the voices.

In accordance with the motion, Mr Piccoli made his valedictory speech at the appointed time.

Votes and Proceedings: 13/9/2017, p. 1370, p. 1374.

Hansard (Proof): 13/9/2017, pp. 52-5.

Standing Order 63.

CHAMBER

Speaker's statement about the conduct of divisions

On 21 September 2017 the Speaker made a statement in relation to the rules and customs that should be observed by Members during the conduct of divisions. In particular, the Speaker reminded Members that it is grossly disorderly for Members to attempt to enter the Chamber after the 4 minutes for a division call has elapsed, and the doors have been locked and the bar of the House lowered. The Speaker also reminded Members that they should take their seats quickly after the doors have been locked, so as to assist the tellers in tallying the division results.

The Speaker's statement was in response to an incident that occurred earlier in the day, when a Member physically raised the bar of the House and entered the Chamber after the Chair had ordered "lock the doors" and the bar had been lowered by an Attendant. When this was brought to the attention of the Chair, he ordered the Member to remove himself from the Chamber and the Member was not counted in the division.

Votes and Proceedings: 21/9/2017, p. 1406.

Hansard (Proof): 21/9/2017, p. 12, p. 29.

Standing Order 180.

(Procedural note: In accordance with Standing Order 180, when a division has been called the Chair orders the division bells to be rung for 4 minutes, giving Members 4 minutes to get to the Chamber to vote in the division.

Once the 4 minutes has elapsed, the Chair will order the Chamber doors to be locked. In the Legislative Assembly Chamber two side doors are locked and the bar of the House, which is located at the entry behind the Speaker's Chair, is lowered.)

COMMITTEES

Inquiry into preference counting in local government elections in NSW

On 12 September 2017 Mr Adam Crouch MP, on behalf of the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, informed the House that the Committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into preference counting in local government elections in NSW. The full details of the inquiry are available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 12/9/2017, pp. 1355-6.

Standing Order 299 (1).

Inquiry into support for new parents and babies in NSW

On 14 September 2017 the Chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services, Mr Kevin Conolly MP, informed the House that the Committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into support for new parents and babies in NSW. The full details of the inquiry are available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 14/9/2017, p. 1381.

Standing Order 299 (1).