



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION
NO. 9/2017: 10 – 19 OCTOBER 2017

October 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20

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.

ELECTIONS

By-elections for three electorates

On 10 October 2017 the Speaker informed the House that, on 25 September 2017, she had issued writs for by-elections for the electoral districts of Blacktown, Cootamundra and Murray, with the following details:

Nomination day – Thursday 28 September 2017

Polling day – Saturday 14 October 2017

Return of writs – Friday 24 November 2017

The by-elections arose from the resignations of Mr John Robertson, the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson and the Hon. Adrian Piccoli from the Legislative Assembly.

Votes and Proceedings: 10/10/2017, p. 1413.

(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 for by-elections are determined by the Speaker, in consultation with the Electoral Commissioner.

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.)

BILLS

Electoral Bill 2017

On 17 October 2017 the Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State introduced the *Electoral Bill 2017* into the Legislative Assembly.

In his second reading speech the Minister indicated that the bill was the product of an extensive review of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, incorporating a number of recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters and some reforms requested by the Electoral Commissioner of NSW.

The bill is intended to update the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* to reflect contemporary electoral practices, and to simplify, modernise and improve the conduct of elections in NSW.

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

Votes and Proceedings: 17/10/2017, p. 1444.

Standing Order 188.

Aboriginal Languages Bill 2017

On 18 October 2017 the Speaker reported a message from the Legislative Council indicating that it had passed the *Aboriginal Languages Bill 2017* (a bill originating in the Council) and was transmitting the bill to the Legislative Assembly for concurrence.

After the bill had been introduced and read a first time, the Speaker ordered that the second reading be made an Order of the Day for a later hour.

Immediately after, the Speaker made a statement informing the House that the message from the Council was accompanied by a message stick. In her statement the Speaker stated:

Message sticks have been used by First Peoples for thousands of years to communicate between nations and within clans, to share good news, to welcome and to pass on information. They were carried on long journeys and passed through generations. They are physical manifestations of the languages that this bill seeks to acknowledge, nurture and grow.

Further, the Speaker advised that the message stick was part of the message stick ceremony in the Council prior to the bill's introduction, and that it would be placed on the Table and remain there during the period in which the bill was being considered by the Assembly.

Later that day debate on the bill was resumed and, after 12 Members had spoken in the debate, it was passed by the Assembly, unanimously.

The objects of the *Aboriginal Languages Bill* are:

- (a) to acknowledge that Aboriginal languages are part of the culture and identity of Aboriginal people;
- (b) to establish an Aboriginal Languages Trust governed by Aboriginal people that will facilitate and support Aboriginal language activities to reawaken, nurture and grow Aboriginal languages; and
- (c) to require the development of a strategic plan for the growth and nurturing of Aboriginal languages.

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

Votes and Proceedings: 18/10/2017, p. 1449, p. 1453.

Hansard (Proof): 18/10/2017, p. 32, pp. 59-77.

Standing Order 229.

CHAMBER

Speaker's statement about photography in the Chamber

On 12 October 2017 the Speaker made a statement reminding Members that photography is not permitted in the precincts around the Chamber and the public galleries, including the Speaker's Square.

Votes and Proceedings: 12/10/2017, p. 1435.

Hansard (Proof): 12/10/2017, p. 44.

COMMITTEES

Inquiry into heavy vehicle safety and the use of technology to improve road safety

On 19 October 2017 the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety, Mr Greg Aplin MP, informed the House that the Committee had resolved to conduct an inquiry into heavy vehicle safety and the use of technology to improve road safety. The full details of the inquiry are available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Votes and Proceedings: 19/10/2017, p. 1459.

Standing Order 299 (1).