



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Procedural Digest

Fifty-eighth Parliament, First Session

No. 5/2025: 24 – 27 June 2025

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.

June 2025

M	T	W	T	F
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

Business

Delivery of the 2025–2026 Budget

On Wednesday 4 June 2025, the House resolved to suspend standing and sessional orders to allow for an expedited legislative process for the 2025-2026 budget bills. This expedited process has been the established practice for the past 14 years. As with the previous two years, the suspension also provided for the Treasurer, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC, to be admitted to the House for the purpose of delivering a speech in relation to the NSW budget for 2025-2026. To assist Members, the Table Office prepared a bespoke schedule for Budget Week reflecting the altered routine of business outlined in the resolution. A copy can be seen below.

The budget bills were considered by the House in the sitting week starting 24 June. On Tuesday 24 June the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully, on behalf of the Premier, moved that the Appropriation Bill 2025, and cognate Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025, and Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 be introduced. The Treasurer was then admitted to the Chamber and delivered his budget speech. At the conclusion of the speech, Minister Scully moved that the bills be read a second time and, in accordance with the resolution of the House on 4 June 2025, debate was adjourned until Thursday 26 June. Minister Scully then tabled the 2025-2026 Budget Papers. While the Treasurer was admitted to deliver his budget speech, he did not have carriage of the bills or participate in any of the legislative procedures within the Assembly.

On Thursday 26 June the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Mark Speakman, spoke to the bills. Following this speech, and in accordance with the prior resolution of the House, Minister Scully moved that the bills be read a second and a third time. This allowed the Appropriation and cognate bills to progress through all remaining stages and be sent to the Council for concurrence.

Following the passage of the bills, the Member for The Entrance, Mr David Mehan, then moved that the House take note of the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2025-2026. This motion was set down as an order of the day for a later time, enabling all members an opportunity to speak on the 2025-2026 budget. Later that day, just before the House adjourned at 6.53pm, the Temporary Speaker reported receipt of a message from the Council returning the budget bills without amendment. The bills were assented to on 1 July 2025.



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TUESDAY 24 JUNE		WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE		THURSDAY 26 JUNE		FRIDAY 27 JUNE	
		10.00 a.m.	Notices of Motions (General Business) (up to 15 minutes)	10.00 a.m.	Budget Bills – Leader of Opposition Speech in response	10.00 a.m.	Notices of Motions (General Business) (up to 15 minutes)
		10.15 a.m.	Government Business		Notices of Motions (General Business) (up to 15 minutes)	10.15 a.m.	General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (up to 40 minutes)
		10.50 a.m.	Speaker to leave the Chair		General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (up to 20 minutes)		
		11.00 a.m.	Question Time and Routine of Business		General Business Orders of the Day for Bills	10.55 a.m.	Committee Reports (Take Note Debate) (up to 40 mins)
				10.50 a.m.	Speaker to leave the Chair		
12.00 p.m.	Introduction Budget Bills Budget Speech by Treasurer Tabling Budget Papers	12.15 p.m. (approx.)	Government Business	11.00 a.m.	Question Time and Routine of Business	11.35 a.m. (approx.)	Government Business
	Lunch			12.15 p.m. (approx.)	Resumption of General Business Orders of the Day for Bills		Community Recognition Statements (up to 20 minutes)
			Lunch	1.30 p.m. (approx.)	Lunch		Private Members' Statements
2.30 p.m.	Question Time and Routine of Business	2.30 p.m.	Government Business (if completed, Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, followed by Private Members' Statements if required)	2.30 p.m.	General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills)	By 4.00 p.m.	Adjournment at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements or at 4pm, whichever is the earlier.
	Notices of Motions (General Business) (up to 15 minutes)				Government Business (if completed, Community Recognition Statements) for up to 20 minutes		
	Government Business (if completed, Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, followed by Private Members' Statements if required)			3.40 p.m.	Petition Debate		
				At 4.00 p.m.	Community Recognition Statements (up to 30 minutes)		
5.00 p.m.	Public Interest Debate	5.00 p.m.	Public Interest Debate		Private Members' Statements		
5.45 p.m. (approx.)	Government Business (if required)	5.45 p.m. (approx.)	Government Business (if required)		Adjournment at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements		
	Community Recognition Statements (up to 30 minutes)		Community Recognition Statement (up to 30 minutes)				
	Private Members' Statements		Private Members' Statements				
	Adjournment at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements		Adjournment at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements				

The schedule reflecting the altered routine of business agreed to by the House to accommodate the passing of the Budget.

*Votes and Proceedings: 4/6/2025, pp. 1290–1291, 24/6/25; pp 1305–1306, 26/6/2025; pp 1327–1328, 1336
Hansard (Proof): 4/6/2025, pp. 18–20, 24/6/25; pp. 1–11, 26/6/2025; pp. 1–5, 74*

Committees

Update on the exclusive cognisance inquiry and related matters before the Parliamentary Privileges and Ethics Committee

As noted in [Procedural Digest No.4/2025](#), the Legislative Assembly Parliamentary Privileges and Ethics Committee (the Ethics Committee) was referred an inquiry during the previous sitting week period on 29 May 2025 on the implication for the exclusive cognisance of the Assembly raised by the Legislative Council's Select Committee on the Relationship Between the Dural Caravan Incident and Parliamentary Debates on Legislation (the Select Committee), and other related matters.

The referral followed the Council agreeing on the evening of 28 May 2025 to amend the Select Committee's terms of reference to remove any reference to the Assembly and to confine the inquiry to the passage of the bills through the Council only. However, in moving these amendments the Chair of the Select Committee stated that the amendments were being moved 'simply to facilitate the work of the committee to ensure reluctant witnesses appear before it' and he strongly asserted 'that there is nothing in the current terms of reference that necessitates these amendments'.

As previously set out, the Chiefs of Staff for the Premier, the Attorney General and the Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism (the Chiefs of Staff) all declined, in writing, the invitations of the Select Committee to attend and give evidence at the second hearing of the inquiry on 22 May 2025. However, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Premier's Department and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office did attend and give evidence at the hearing.



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On 10 June 2025, following the amendment of the Select Committee's terms of reference by the Council, the Select Committee reissued its invitations to the Chiefs of Staff to attend the Select Committee's third hearing, held on 20 June 2025.

On 18 June 2025, the Select Committee issued summons pursuant to section 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* (the Act) to compel the Chiefs of Staff to attend to give evidence before the Committee on Friday 20 June. The following day, the Chiefs of Staff wrote to the Select Committee Chair requesting that they be excused from attending the hearing the next morning, arguing there was 'reasonable excuse or just cause' to not attend the hearing, and indicated that, regardless of the response from the Committee, they would not attend the hearing.

On 20 June 2025, the Chiefs of Staffs did not appear at the Select Committee's third hearing. The Chair made a statement in which he noted that the Select Committee would consider further action in relation to the witnesses under sections 7 through to 9 of the Act. In response to the argument of comity between the Houses raised in the Chiefs of Staff's letter, the Chair stated that the inquiry 'seeks to examine the actions of the Executive, not members of the Legislative Assembly, and that the principle of comity does not prevent reference to, or examination of, statements by Ministers in the Assembly in relation to Government policy'.

Following the witnesses failure to attend the hearing, the Committee wrote to the President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC requesting that he certify to a judge of the Supreme Court that the Chiefs of Staff failed to appear without a just cause and reasonable excuse under section 7 of the Act, which would require the judge to issue warrants for their arrest for the purpose of bringing them before the Committee.

On Tuesday 24 June 2025, the President informed the Council that he had instructed the Legislative Council Clerk to seek legal advice on the matter. The following day, the President updated the Council that Bret Walker SC's advice 'was unequivocal that ministerial staffers are able to be called before Legislative Council inquiries as witnesses, that the correct steps had been taken in summoning the witnesses under section 4 and, further, that there was no just cause or reasonable excuse for the non-attendance of the witnesses'. The advice argued that 'the pendency of the [Ethics Committee] inquiry... is incapable of detracting from the binding statutory force of ss 4 and 7-9 of the Act'. It is notable that while the advice from Bret Walker SC asserted that 'comity is incapable of limiting the lawful function and powers of debate and inquiry of the Upper House' it was silent on the issue of exclusive cognisance.

In addressing the Council, the President noted that he had intended to advise the Council that he would certifying to a judge of the Supreme Court under section 7 of the Act, however, he had been advised that the Chiefs of Staff had agreed to attend to give evidence before the Select Committee voluntarily.

On the last sitting day in the Assembly, Friday 27 June 2025, the Chiefs of Staff gave evidence before the Select Committee. At the hearing, there was no questioning or evidence given around the ongoing Ethics Committee inquiry, the issue of exclusive cognisance or any debates that occurred in the Legislative Assembly on the passage of bills the subject of the Select Committee inquiry.

When the Ethics Committee meets it may, but is not obliged to, note any of the actions the Legislative Council Select Committee that do not touch upon the Ethics Committee's terms of reference.

Votes and Proceedings: 29/5/2025, p.1258

Hansard (Proof): 29/5/2025, pp. 1–9

Hansard (Proof) LC: 28/5/2025, p. 75; 24/6/2025, p. 1; 25/6/2025, p. 1

Standing Order 92 (Matters of privilege not suddenly arising)



Bills

Passage of bills relating to the Northern Beaches Hospital

As discussed in [Procedural Digest No.3/2025](#), on 8 May 2025, the independent member for Wakehurst, Mr Michael Regan, introduced the Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025. The bill sought to provide that no compensation should be payable by, or on behalf of, New South Wales in relation to the voluntary termination by the Government of the contract for the operation of public hospital services provided by private operator Healthscope at Northern Beaches Hospital. Mr Regan introduced his bill against the backdrop of sustained complaints from his community on the operation of the hospital, a critical performance audit report from the NSW Auditor-General, two committee inquiries and a Government taskforce on the hospital's future, requests from Healthscope for the Government to take back the hospital, and receivers being appointed to Healthscope's parent company.

On Monday 23 June, the day before the final June sitting week commenced, the Government circulated three proposed amendments to Mr Regan's bill. The amendments, which were published to Parliament's [webpage](#), entirely omitted the text of Mr Regan's bill, inserting instead wholly new text and changing both the long and short titles of the bill. The amendments sought to provide for the statutory termination of the Northern Beaches Hospital Deed and provide an independent process for the determination of compensation.

On Tuesday 24 June, the House agreed to consider all stages of Mr Regan's bill the following day, Wednesday 25 June, during the time set aside for Government business.

However, the next day, Wednesday 25 June, the House did not consider the Northern Beaches Hospital (Voluntary Contract Termination) Bill 2025. Instead, Mr Regan gave notice of his intention to introduce a second bill relating to the Northern Beaches Hospital, the Health Services Amendment (Northern Beaches Hospital Deed Termination) Bill 2025. Mr Regan again moved that Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended to permit the introduction and consideration of all stages of his second bill that same day. In speaking to his motion, Mr Regan commented that he had received advice from the Clerks regarding the substantial nature of the Government's proposed amendments to his first bill, and that it was more appropriate for a new bill to be considered by the House. The motion was agreed to on the voices.

Later that afternoon, Mr Regan introduced the Health Services Amendment (Northern Beaches Hospital Deed Termination) Bill 2025. The new bill was identical to the amendments circulated on Monday 23 June, including the new long and short titles. In his second reading speech, Mr Regan explained that this second bill would allow the Government to terminate the project deed 'on terms that are fair and equitable to both parties in all the circumstances, which includes compensation paid on the basis there is an operator termination event'.

At the conclusion of the second reading debate Mr Regan, in reply, provided insight into the negotiations that took place regarding the passage of this private members' bill:

Members have to work with the Government to get a bill passed in this place—full stop. As a member of Parliament, sometimes you have to accept that it is not going to be your bill; it will be the Government's bill. I do not care. It is not about me; it is about the community. It is about the greater good and the people we serve. It will always be about that.



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I take the points that the Government has made. I did get impatient when, after two months of negotiations, we were going nowhere. I said to the Treasurer, "I'm moving a bill to call the bluff of Healthscope...So I moved a bill which was, in hindsight, too harsh. But knowing that I had the will of the Parliament, because we had passed Joe's law, we said no more to public-private partnerships. We all spoke about that around the table and an opportunity presented itself. The Government amended my original bill, and I said, "That's fine. I'm happy for them to own it. I don't care. The amendments are fine by me." I was happy so long as the bill gave a very clear path for the nurses, for the clinicians and for our community to have the hospital back where it belongs and to build a more positive and bright future for it. So, when it was amended, again, I drew a line in the sand and said, "I'm just going to bring this bill forward and get this done."

The bill passed both Houses unamended on Thursday 26 June and has been sent for assent.

Mr Regan's first bill was not debated in the June sitting week and remains on the Business Paper. The Standing Orders provide that Mr Regan may move a motion to withdraw this bill if he wishes to do so. Otherwise, the bill is due to lapse on 8 November 2025.

Votes and Proceedings: 24/6/2025, p. 1306; 25/6/2025, pp. 1317, 1321–2

Hansard (Proof): 25/6/2025, pp. 46–59

Standing Order 365 (Suspension of Standing Orders)

Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment (Workplace Protections) Bill 2025

On 27 May the Hon. Sophie Cotsis, Minister for Industrial Relations and Work Health and Safety introduced two bills related to workplace safety.

The Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill, which was outlined in [Procedural Digest No. 4/2025](#), seeks to make changes to liability and entitlements for psychological injuries to improve the operation of the workers compensation scheme. That bill was passed with amendments by the Assembly on 3 June, but was referred to committee for inquiry and report by the Legislative Council.

The second bill, the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment (Workplace Protections) Bill, was remarked on as being complementary to the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill. While the Workers Compensation bill legislates the response after harm has occurred, the Workplace Protections bill focuses on prevention. It introduces measures aimed at discouraging workplace behaviours that may lead to bullying, harassment, and psychological harm.

Debate on the second reading began on Tuesday 24 June and continued into Wednesday 25 June. Echoing the process that had occurred in the Council on the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill, the independent Member for Murray attempted to have the bill referred to a committee rather than be read a second time. Her motion was negatived following a minority division (as less than six members and in this case only three, being Mrs Dalton, Mr Roy Butler and Mrs Judy Hannan, voted for the referral).

Both Minister Cotsis and the independent Member for Barwon, Mr Roy Butler, moved amendments to the bill which were passed on the voices. Mr Barwon's amendment, and the Government's support of it, had been foreshadowed during debate on the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill a week earlier and reflected a similar amendment agreed to in that bill.



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The Workplace Protections bill passed through all stages on Thursday 26 June in the Council and was forwarded to the Assembly with amendments. On Friday 27 June the Assembly agreed to the Council amendments. The bill was assented to on 3 July.

Votes and Proceedings: 25/6/2025, pp. 1315, 1318–1320

Hansard (Proof): 25/6/2025, pp. 1–6, 23–29

Hansard (Proof) LC: 5/6/2025, pp. 39 – 48

Standing Orders 198 (Amendment – referral to committee)

