



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Procedural Digest

Fifty-eighth Parliament, First Session

No. 9/2025: 11 – 21 November 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.

November 2025

M	T	W	T	F
12	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21

Members

Changes in Nationals and Liberal leadership

On 18 November 2025, the Manager of Opposition Business informed the House of the election of Mr Gurmish Singh as Leader of the Nationals and Mr Kevin Anderson as Deputy Leader of the Nationals.

On 21 November 2025, the Opposition Whip informed the House of the election of Ms Kellie Sloane as the Leader of the Opposition, and Mr Justin Clancy as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Assembly.

Votes and Proceedings: 18/11/2025, p 1583; 21/11/2025, p 1629.

Hansard (Proof): 18/11/2025, p 1; 21/11/2025, p 2.

Speaker

Dissent from ruling of the Assistant Speaker

On 11 November 2025, during the time allocated for Business with Precedence, Ms Kobi Shetty moved the following motion:

"That this House dissents from the ruling of the Assistant Speaker on 21 October 2025 in ruling out of order my motion to refer the Local Government Amendment (Elections) Bill 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for further inquiry despite there being precedent for this Committee to consider the Bill."

Ms Shetty had given notice of her intention to move this motion, as is required by the standing orders, on 22 October 2025. In giving notice, Ms Shetty indicated that she would move the motion in two sitting days.

As noted in the Legislative Assembly's [Procedural Digest No. 8](#), on 21 October 2025, the Assistant Speaker had ruled in favour of an argument made by the Leader of the House, that the Bill could not be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) as it was outside the scope of the JSCEM's terms of reference. During her speech in support of the dissent motion, Ms Shetty disputed this argument and noted precedents where the JSCEM had considered matters relating to local government elections.

In his contribution, the Leader of the House pointed to the infrequent nature of motions of dissent. He argued that to pass such a motion would be "in effect, a motion of no confidence in whoever is presiding" and would be



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disrespectful to the office of the Speaker. He also noted the dissent motion, even if passed, would not accomplish the desired referral to the JSCEM as the Bill had already passed the House.

Both Ms Jenny Leong in her debate contribution and Ms Shetty in her reply addressed these issues. Ms Shetty stated:

"I reiterate that this motion is not a personal attack on the Member for Strathfield or to undermine his ability as the Assistant Speaker. I have the utmost respect for him and all members who sit in the Speaker's chair and make difficult decisions every day. I moved this motion because I am genuinely concerned that there is precedence to refer issues relating to local government elections to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, which in previous parliaments had very similar, if not identical, terms of reference. There are broader implications for democracy if we disregard the decisions that were made in those previous parliaments."

The question was put to the House and voices were given for both the 'ayes' and the 'noes'. The Speaker, who was presiding, advised that he thought the 'noes' had it. As what can be taken as a mark of respect for the position of the Chair on the part of the 'ayes', there was no challenge to this decision and the question was negatived on the voices.

Votes and Proceedings: 11/11/2025, p. 1549.

Hansard (Proof): 11/11/2025, pp. 15-19.

Standing Order 95 (Dissent from Speaker's ruling or decision).

Procedural note

Standing Order 95 provides the procedure for the moving of dissent motions. In some Houses of Parliament (for instance, in the NSW Legislative Council), dissent motions must be moved immediately on the making of a ruling by the Presiding Officer. In the Legislative Assembly, the standing orders require that notice must be given before such a motion can be moved and notice can only be given at a certain time in the routine of business (before Question Time). The motion must state the grounds of the dissent and that the notice shall be given and set down for consideration within three clear sitting days after the day on which the ruling was given.

Speaker's statement on a Legislative Council order for papers

Before Question Time on 20 November 2025, the Speaker made a statement regarding a Legislative Council order for papers relating to virtual fencing. The order for papers, which was passed by the Council on 22 October 2025, required, amongst other things, "all documents relating to the legalisation of virtual fencing in New South Wales".

The Speaker stated that the order "has the potential to include documents held by government agencies that relate to proceedings in the Legislative Assembly and its committees." The Speaker advised the House that consistent with the approach taken in relation to the Legislative Council's order for papers concerning workers compensation legislation, documents captured by the order that relate to proceedings in the Assembly will not be provided to the Council but instead be provided to the Clerk on a confidential basis. Access to the documents will be restricted, with members permitted to inspect only correspondence involving themselves.



Votes and Proceedings: 20/11/2025, p. 1618.

Hansard (Proof): 20/11/2025, p. 6.

Business

Standing Orders suspended to change the routine of business over the last sitting week of the year

On 18 November 2025, the House suspended standing and sessional orders and resolved to change the routine of business for the Thursday and Friday of that week. In the Legislative Assembly, this was expected to be the final sitting week of 2025.

The Leader of the House first moved that standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow him to move a motion of which notice had not been given. This suspension was agreed to on the voices without any debate. The Leader of the House then moved his substantive motion, which was also agreed to on the voices with no debate.

The resolution changed the routine of business for the week in the following ways.

Providing for Christmas felicitations

Christmas felicitations is a yearly tradition in the House, often given on the last Thursday of the year, which allows members to reflect on the year just gone and thank those who assisted them in their parliamentary responsibilities.

The motion provided for up to two hours and 25 minutes for the giving of Christmas felicitations on Thursday 20 November 2025 in place of General Business Orders of the Day for Bills, and General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills).

As some members, with the consensus of the House, spoke a little longer, the actual time spent on Christmas felicitations ended up at two hours and 46 minutes.

Sitting on Friday 21 November 2025

The motion provided for the House to sit on Friday 21 November 2025, but only to consider Government Business and only if Government Business had not been concluded on Wednesday 19 November 2025.

As Standing Order 102 states that Ministers are able to arrange Government Business in any order, it would be up to a Minister to advise the House whether Government Business was required on the Friday. On Thursday 20 November 2025, just before Question Time, the Leader of House announced that the House would sit on the Friday to consider Government Business.

Friday 21 November 2025 was a busy day for the Legislative Assembly, with the Speaker leaving the chair at 8.37 pm. The House:

- Considered and passed four Legislative Council bills.
- Considered and passed the Children (Criminal Proceedings) and Young Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which included consideration in detail, three divisions (one was on an extension of speaking time) and a minority division on the third reading.



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- Considered and passed a motion to expunge a record from Hansard.
- Adopted a Protocol with the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Resuming the Chair on Friday 28 November 2025 on the ringing of one long bell

The final change provided that rather than adjourn at the conclusion of Friday 21 November 2025, the Speaker was to leave the Chair and for the House to resume sitting at 10:30 am on Friday 28 November 2025. This was to allow the House to consider any messages received from the Legislative Council, which would be sitting during the reserve week of 25 – 27 November 2025.

A sitting day does not end until the House has adjourned. Therefore, while the House did sit on the calendar day of 28 November 2025, the records of the House, including the Votes and Proceedings, record this time period as part of the sitting day of 21 November 2025. Additionally, any papers tabled during the sitting on Friday 28 November 2025 were recorded as having been tabled on Friday 21 November 2025.

The House finally adjourned its last sitting day of the year at 11.11 am, until Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Votes and Proceedings: 18/11/2025, pp. 1585-1586; 20/11/2025, pp. 1618, 1623, 1625; 21/11/2025.

Hansard (Proof): 18/11/2025, pp. 14-15; 20/11/2025, pp. 6, 21-31, 37-55; 21/11/2025.

Standing Orders suspended to permit the introduction and second reading of four private members' bills

As discussed earlier in this Digest, the House resolved to change the usual routine of business for Friday 21 November 2025 to restrict business to Government Business only. A consequence of this was the removal of 40 minutes which would have been spent introducing private members' bills.

On Wednesday 19 November 2025, Mr Alex Greenwich moved a motion to suspend standing orders on Thursday 20 November 2025 to permit the introduction (and movers' second reading speech) of four private members' bills during the time directly after the giving of General Business Notices of Motion and before Question Time, and again during the 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm lunch break. The bills were to be given precedence in the following order:

- Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment (Public Assemblies) Bill 2025, in the carriage of the Member for Wahroonga. This bill was introduced on 13 November 2025 but the mover's second reading speech had been interrupted.
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Bushfire Protection) Bill 2025, in the carriage of the Member for Wakehurst.
- Summary Offences Amendment (Police Memorial Offences) Bill 2025, in the carriage of the Member for Barwon.
- Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2025, in the carriage of the Member for Sydney.

The motion also provided that the lapsing dates of three additional private members bills be extended until 31 March 2026. These were the Road Legislation Amendment (E-Bike Regulation) Bill, in the carriage of the Member for Pittwater; the Water Management Amendment (Register of State and Commonwealth Water Access Licences) Bill, in the carriage of the Member for Murray; and the Human Rights Bill, in the carriage of the Member for Newtown. These bills were otherwise set to lapse over the summer break.



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The motion had the support of the Government and passed on the voices.

On 20 November 2025, all four bills given precedence were introduced by 2.15 pm, leaving 15 minutes to spare before the resumption of Christmas Felicitations.

Votes and Proceedings: 18/11/2025, pp. 1585-1586; 19/11/2025, p. 1596; 20/11/2025, pp. 1615, 1617-1618, 1623-1624.

Hansard (Proof): 18/11/2025, pp. 14-15; 19/11/2025, pp. 3-4; 20/11/2025, pp. 1-2, 4-5, 31-37.

Private Member sought to move motion to suspend standing orders outside time provided for

At 10.30 am on the calendar day of Friday 28 November 2025, after the ringing of one long bell, the House resumed sitting from 10.37 pm on Friday 21 November 2025. At approximately 10.50 am, during the debate on the proposed establishment of the Committee on Public Responsibility (discussed below in this digest), the Member for Newtown sought to move a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders. The Speaker ruled that she was not entitled to do so under the standing orders.

Standing Order 365(1) provides that a member may, at any time after 10.30 am and up to 1.30 pm, without leave move a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders. This provides a (single) period at the start of each *sitting* day during which private members may move suspensions without requiring leave of the House. As discussed above, when the House resumed sitting on Friday 28 November 2025, it was in fact a continuation of the 21 November 2025 sitting day. It therefore did not follow that a second period of allowance would occur. When the standing orders provide for certain things to occur at specified times, the intention is that the item occurs (once) at that time each sitting day.

Votes and Proceedings: 21/11/2025, p. 1636.

Hansard (Proof): 21/11/2025, pp. 91-95.

Standing order 365 (Suspension of Standing Order).

Committees

Legislative Assembly Committee on Public Responsibility

When the House resumed sitting on Friday 28 November 2025, the Leader of the House moved a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders to allow him to move a motion, of which notice had not been given, to establish a new Legislative Assembly Committee on Public Responsibility.

After some debate, the suspension was agreed to on the voices. The Leader of the House then moved the substantive motion which set out the proposed terms of reference for the new committee. After only two contributions to the debate, the Member for Prospect moved that the question be now put, which was agreed to on division. Included in the noes were members of the Opposition and crossbench.

The Committee may inquire into and report on the public responsibility, accountability, financial management, regulatory impact and service delivery of New South Wales government departments, statutory bodies or corporations. It is able to initiate inquiries on its own motion, as well as have inquiries referred to it from the House or from a Minister. The membership consisted of five members, comprising three Government members, one Opposition member and one crossbench member.



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Votes and Proceedings: 21/11/2025, pp. 1636-1639.

Hansard (Proof): 21/11/2025, pp. 90-95.

Bills

Government bills considered urgent in the Legislative Assembly

Over the course of Tuesday 18 November 2025, the House declared two Government bills urgent – the Children (Criminal Proceedings) and Young Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025. In each case, the Attorney General moved, pursuant to Standing Order 189, that the Bill be considered an urgent bill, immediately after giving the second reading speech.

The urgency motion for the Children (Criminal Proceedings) and Young Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 was moved at 3.24 pm and agreed to on minority division. Ms Jenny Leong, Ms Jacqui Scruby, Ms Kobi Shetty and Adjunct Professor Tamara Smith were in the minority.

The second reading debate occurred on Friday 21 November 2025 with 25 members contributing to the debate. Mr Henskens requested the Bill be considered in detail and the House proceeded to consider two amendments, both of which were negatived on division. At the conclusion of consideration in detail the third reading of the Bill was agreed to on minority division, with Ms Leong, Ms Shetty and Adjunct Prof. Smith in the minority. The Bill was then sent to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

The urgency motion for the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025 was moved at 6.30 pm on 18 November 2025 and a division was called. However, as the House had, on 15 October 2025, resolved to defer divisions occurring after 6:30 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the division would not be conducted until the next morning. At 10.30 am the next morning, the division was duly conducted and the question that the Bill be considered an urgent bill was agreed to on minority division, with Ms Leong, Ms Shetty and Adjunct Prof. Smith in the minority. The second reading of the Bill was debated later on 19 November 2025, after which the Bill passed all remaining stages and was sent to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

The House last agreed to consider bills urgent under Standing Order 189 on 5 August 2025 when the Parliamentary Remuneration Amendment (Basic Salary) Bill 2025 and the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Amendment (Priority Network Projects) Bill 2025 were considered urgent immediately following the respective mover's second reading speeches.

Votes and Proceedings: 5/8/2025, pp1352-1353; 18/11/2025, pp 1586 – 1587, 1591; 19/11/2025, p 1599; 21/11/2025, pp 1632-1636.

Hansard (Proof): 18/11/2025, pp. 15-24, 50-52; 19/11/2025, pp. 3, 20-21; 21/11/2025, pp. 47-89.



Standing order 189 (Procedure for urgent bills).

Procedural note

Under Standing Order 189, once a bill is introduced and the mover's second reading speech has been delivered, the member in charge of the bill may move that it be declared urgent, provided sufficient copies have been circulated to members. The question "That the bill be considered an urgent bill" is put immediately, without debate or amendment. If the House agrees, all remaining stages of the bill may proceed forthwith or at any time during that sitting.

By contrast, the standard process requires a minimum adjournment of five clear days after the second reading speech to allow members time to consider the bill, including drafting any amendments.

Workers compensation legislation

This year the Government introduced two fiercely debated bills relating to workers compensation in NSW.

Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill

The Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill ("Amendment Bill") was introduced on 27 May 2025 (see [Procedural Digest 4/2025, 27 May 2025](#)). Key features of the Bill included restricting access to compensation for psychological injury, with weekly payments ceasing after two and a half years for claimants assessed with up to 31% whole person impairment (WPI). Under existing laws, weekly payments ended after five years for claimants with up to 25% WPI. Claimants' medical expenses would also cease earlier, and tax-free lump sum payments would be reduced. The defence of 'reasonable management action' would widen, and claims could be referred to the Industrial Relations Commission for an initial assessment under industrial law.

In consideration in detail, the Assembly did not agree to 33 Opposition amendments, or to three Greens' amendments, which directly opposed the reforms. However, it passed nine amendments moved by Mr Alex Greenwich, Member for Sydney. These amendments strengthened protections for frontline workers and AIDs/HIV patients, and tightened provisions regarding statutory review and retrospectivity. The Assembly passed the Bill on 3 June 2025 and referred it to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

The Council introduced the Bill on 4 June 2025. On 5 June 2025, when the Bill was called on to be read a second time, the Council instead referred it to the Public Accountability and Works Committee, with no specific reporting date. The Committee's [Report](#), tabled out of session on 3 November 2025, was highly critical of the Bill.

It was reported in the media on 7 November 2025 that Mr Greenwich and Mr Taylor Martin MLC along with several other Legislative Council crossbenchers had brokered a compromise deal that would see the Bill pass the Legislative Council. It was reported that the Treasurer, the Hon Daniel Mookey MLC, supported the compromise position which would see the WPI threshold for psychological injury progressively rising from 25% to 28% by 1 July 2028, before being replaced by a new WPI assessment tool devised by the NSW Chief Psychiatrist. Lump sum payments for injured workers would also be restored.



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The Council commenced and concluded its second reading debate on 13 November 2025, and then proceeded to committee of the whole, which progressed into Friday 14 November 2025. The Council also agreed to Opposition amendments reducing the WPI threshold for psychological injuries to 21%, a percentage lower than the existing threshold.

Although Mr Martin had circulated amendments giving effect to the compromise position, he indicated that he had decided not to move them. The Chair of Committees ruled that where a member lodges amendments in their name but chooses not to move them, those amendments cannot be accepted as new amendments from a member from another party. As such, the compromise deal amendments were never moved.

Other amendments incorporating two elements of the Independents' compromise, which had been circulated by the Opposition and the Greens, were moved and agreed to. These included provisions to restore lump sum payments for psychologically injured workers.

The Bill with the proposed amendments was returned on 18 November 2025. The Assembly agreed to the Council amendments, and the Bill was forwarded to the Governor for assent.

Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Bill 2025

Interestingly, on 6 August 2025 the Government had introduced the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Bill 2025 ("Reform and Modernisation Bill") into the Assembly. This Bill was virtually identical to the Amendment Bill as passed by the Assembly. It had a different short and long title and some minor consequential amendments plus a new schedule relating to digital work systems.

The second reading debate on the Bill resumed on 19 November 2025. Mr Greenwich flagged that he would move amendments putting forward the remaining elements of the compromise position that was never moved in the Legislative Council, in particular, regarding the WPI threshold for psychological injury.

During the debate, Adjunct Professor Tamara Smith raised a point of order under Standing Order 154 (the "same question rule"). Adjunct Prof. Smith contended that the Reform and Modernisation Bill was essentially the same as the Amendment Bill, which the Assembly had already determined would be read a second time. On that basis, she argued that the Speaker should disallow the motion that the Reform and Modernisation Bill be read a second time.

Contributions to the point of order were also made by Ms Eleni Petinos, Mr Alister Henskens and Ms Jenny Leong (in favour of the point of order) and by Mr Greenwich, Mr Jihad Dib and Mr David Harris (opposed to the point of order).

The Speaker noted that the matter involved a level of subjectivity. On that basis, he declined to rule on the point of order and determined that the fate of the Reform and Modernisation Bill, and whether it should be read a second time, would be left to the will of the House.

Accordingly, debate on the Bill continued. A division was called for on the question on the second reading of the bill and was deferred until the next day.

In consideration in detail, Mr Greenwich moved his amendments, all of which were agreed to. As well as including the elements of the compromise position that was never moved in the Legislative Council, the amendments also had the effect of stripping out the remainder of the Bill, reducing it from 60 to 12 pages in



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length. In effect, the amended bill became a vehicle for having the Legislative Council consider the compromise position amendments.

On 20 November 2025, the deferred division on the second reading was conducted. The second and third reading were agreed to and the amended bill was forwarded to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

The bill was reported in the Council that day (20 November 2025). Despite sitting during the reserve week of 25 to 27 November 2025, the Bill was not considered by the Council and remains on its Notice Paper.

Votes and Proceedings: 18/11/25 p. 1587; 19/11/25 pp. 1604-1613; 20/11/25 pp. 1615-1617.

Hansard (Proof): 18/11/2025, pp. 24-34; 19/11/25, pp. 60-87; 20/11/2025, pp. 2-4.

Standing order 154 (Same question not to be put).

Children (Criminal Proceedings) and Young Offenders Amendment Bill: Division on extension of time amid extensive second reading contributions

On Friday 21 November 2025, at 3:20 pm, the second reading debate on the Children (Criminal Proceedings) and Young Offenders Amendment Bill commenced and continued until 8:37 pm. The debate was notable for its high participation, particularly given that it was a Friday sitting day. 25 members from across the political spectrum contributed over the course of the debate. Many remained in the Chamber late into the evening to ensure that concerns from their constituents were placed on the record. Members spoke to rising youth crime, especially in the regional areas, and scrutinised the proposed statutory test for rebutting *doli incapax* as well as the suggested reforms to diversion under the *Young Offenders Act 1997*.

The strong interest in the Bill was also reflected in the number of requests for additional speaking time. Under Standing Order 85, members are limited to ten minutes each but may seek a further five minutes if the House agrees. Usually, the House would agree to an extension on the voices, but it is possible for a division to be called. This is what happened when the Member for Prospect, Dr Hugh McDermott, sought an extension of time. Following the division, the question was agreed to, and the extension was granted. Later extension requests from the Members for Orange and Oxley were agreed to on the voices, without division.

At the conclusion of the second reading debate on 21 November 2025, the House considered the Bill in detail. Two amendments were moved by the Member for Wahroonga, Mr Alister Henskens, both of which were negated on division. The Bill was then read a third time and forwarded to the Legislative Council for concurrence. The Council considered the Bill on Thursday 27 November 2025, during the reserve sitting week, and returned it without amendment. The Speaker reported the Legislative Council's message on 28 November 2025 concluding consideration of the Bill and finalising proceedings for the continued sitting day of 21 November 2025.

Votes and Proceedings: 18/11/2025, pp. 1586-1587; 21/11/2025, pp. 1632-1636, 1640.

Hansard (Proof): 18/11/2025, pp. 15-24; 21/11/2025, pp. 47-89.

Standing Orders 85 (Maximum time limits), 173 (Call for division), 174 (Procedure for division) and 180 (Procedure for Division).