



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS REGARDING
COMMUNITY RECOGNITION NOTICES AND
RELATED MATTERS**

REPORT 4/55 – FEBRUARY 2013



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Membership

CHAIR	The Hon. Shelley Hancock, Speaker
MEMBERS	The Hon. Richard Amery Mr Stuart Ayres Mr Michael Daley Mr Andrew Fraser The Hon. Thomas George The Hon. Brad Hazzard The Hon. Paul Lynch Mr Daryl Maguire The Hon. Richard Torbay
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Terms of Reference

The committee was established to inquire into and report on matters relating to the standing orders and the procedures of the House and its committees.

Speaker's Foreword

At a meeting of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee held on 22 November 2012, the Committee agreed that the sessional order regarding community recognition notices should be revisited in early 2013 with a view to improving the procedure to meet the needs of Members.

The Committee met on 27 February 2013 to consider a proposal to change community recognition notices to community recognition statements and agreed unanimously that providing time within the routine of business for Members to make statements in the House recognising achievements in the community would be preferable to Members lodging notices, which were adopted formally by the House.

In the context of private member's business, the Committee also revisited its proposal (agreed to on 22 November 2012) to limit Members to giving two General Business Notices of Motions each sitting day. It was considered that such a proposal was unnecessary and that the issue was timeliness of motions rather than the number of notices given. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that General Business should now lapse after 6 months.

The report on the proposed sessional orders is commended for consideration by the House.

Shelley Hancock
Speaker

Proposed Sessional Order for Community Recognition Statements

The Committee considered a proposal to adopt a Sessional Order to set aside time in the House when members could give short Community Recognition Statements, of up to a minute in length, on matters pertaining to their community or of a congratulatory nature. This process would replace the current process for lodging CRNs and would remove the need for members to draft their written notice in conformity with the norms of the House. However, it would still ensure that more substantial matters are considered during the time set aside for General Business. The Committee agreed to the following proposed sessional order:

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following sessional order be adopted:

108A. The procedure for community recognition statements is as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the routine of business, the Speaker will ask if there are any community recognition statements.*
- (2) Within the time allocated in the routine of business, Members may give community recognition statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 15 minutes.*
- (3) Members may not give consecutive community recognition statements.*
- (4) Community recognition statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.*
- (5) Community recognition statements must not contain:*
 - a. Matters of policy;*
 - b. Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or*
 - c. Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.*
- (6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during community recognition statements.*

Proposed Sessional Order for the lapsing of General Business after 6 months

The Committee reconsidered the issue of General Business and agreed that issues previously discussed about General Business Notices of Motions concerned the timeliness of when the notices were debated. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that General Business should lapse after 6 months rather than 12 months and that there should be no restriction on the number that Members could give each sitting day. The Committee agreed to the following proposed sessional order:

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 105 shall read as follows:

105.

- (1) General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day shall retain their relative places on the Business Paper and be considered in the order in which they are given or set down.*
- (2) General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day not commenced or completed 6 months from the date given shall lapse.*
- (3) General Business interrupted by the operation of the routine of business shall stand adjourned and be set down as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of all other notices and orders, except any General Business Order of the Day or Notice of Motion accorded precedence for that day in accordance with Standing Order 106.*

Proposed Routine of Business for 2013

The proposed sessional order for the routine of business agreed to by the Committee allocates time on Wednesdays and Thursdays for community recognition statements:

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 97 shall read as follows:

Tuesdays

1. *At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair*
2. *Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)*
3. *Private Members' Statements*
4. *At 1.30 p.m. the Speaker leaves the Chair*
5. *At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair*
6. *Ministerial Statements*
7. *Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence)*
8. *Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority*
9. *Question Time*
10. *Ministerial Statements*
11. *Papers*
12. *Committees – Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries*
13. *Petitions*
14. *Announcement of Matter of Public Importance*
15. *Placing or Disposal of Business*
16. *Motion Accorded Priority*
17. *Business with Precedence*
18. *At 4.00 p.m. Business before the House is interrupted for Government Business. Any interrupted business lapses except when the House is considering Business with Precedence which shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.*
19. *At 7.00 p.m. Business before the House is interrupted for Private Members' Statements. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.*
20. *Matter of Public Importance*
21. *Adjournment at 7.45 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance, if concluded before 7.45 p.m.*

Wednesdays

1. *At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair*
2. *Giving of Notices of Motions (General Notices)*
3. *Government Business concluding at 1.15 p.m. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for a later hour of the day. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.*

4. *Community Recognition Statements concluding at 1.30 p.m.*
5. *At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair*
6. *Ministerial Statements*
7. *Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence, and notices to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)*
8. *Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority*
9. *Question Time*
10. *Ministerial Statements*
11. *Papers*
12. *Committees - Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries*
13. *Petitions*
14. *Announcement of Matter of Public Importance*
15. *Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)*
16. *Placing or Disposal of Business*
17. *Motion Accorded Priority*
18. *Business with Precedence*
19. *At 4.00 p.m. business before the House is interrupted for Government Business. Any interrupted business lapses except when the House is considering Business with Precedence which shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.*
20. *At 6.30 p.m. the Speaker leaves the Chair. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for a later time. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.*
21. *At 7.00 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair.*
22. *Private Members' Statements.*
23. *Government Business concluding at 9.45 pm. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.*
24. *Matter of Public Importance.*
25. *Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance if concluded before 10.00 p.m.*

Thursdays

1. *At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair*
2. *Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)*
3. *General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (concluding not later than 10.30 a.m.) Any interrupted item of Business shall be set down as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of other General Business Notices of Motions for Bills.*
4. *General Business Orders of the Day for Bills (concluding not later than 11.30 a.m. or after the expiry of 60 minutes from the commencement of General Business Orders of the Day for Bills if commenced earlier than 10.30 a.m.) Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption, a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.*

5. *General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills) concluding at 1.00 p.m. Any interrupted business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of other General Business (not being Bills). If at the time of interruption a division is in progress that division and any other division(s) to determine the matter shall be completed.*
6. *At 1.00 p.m. consideration of committee reports presented concluding at 1.30 p.m. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.*
7. *At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair.*
8. *Ministerial Statements*
9. *Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence)*
10. *Question Time*
11. *Ministerial Statements*
12. *Papers*
13. *Committees – Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries*
14. *Petitions*
15. *Placing or Disposal of Business*
16. *Business with Precedence*
17. *Government Business*
18. *At 4.30 p.m. business before the House is interrupted for Business of the House – Petitions. Any interrupted item of Business with Precedence or Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.*
19. *Community Recognition Statements*
20. *Private Members' Statements after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.*

Appendix One - Extracts from Minutes

Wednesday 27 February 2013 at 10.30 am

Members Present:

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP

The Hon. Richard Amery MP

Mr Stuart Ayres MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

The Hon. Thomas George MP

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP

The Hon. Paul Lynch MP

Mr Daryl Maguire MP

Apologies:

Mr Andrew Fraser MP

The Hon. Richard Torbay MP

Consideration of Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2012

Resolved on the motion of Mr Amery, seconded Mr Hazzard, that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2012 be agreed to.

Consideration of proposed sessional order regarding community recognition statements

The Committee discussed the proposed sessional order for community recognition statements.

Resolved on the motion of Mr Maguire, seconded Mr Daley, that a sessional order be drafted providing for members to give community recognition statements for up to 1 minute each on Wednesdays and Thursdays for a total of 15 minutes.

Consideration of General Business Notices of Motions

The Committee discussed issues surrounding General Business Notices of Motions.

The Committee agreed unanimously that there should be no restriction on the number of General Business Notices of Motions given each sitting day and that General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day should lapse after 6 months from the date given.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 10.59 am *sine dine*.

.....

(Speaker)

