



# Standing Orders and Procedure Committee

REPORT 6/56 – NOVEMBER 2017

CHANGES TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS  
(PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS AND  
COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS)

REPORTS  
COMMITTEES

5

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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The motto of the coat of arms for the state of New South Wales is “Orta recens quam pura nites”. It is written in Latin and means “newly risen, how brightly you shine”.

# Contents

Membership _____	ii
Terms of reference _____	iii
Speaker's foreword _____	iv
List of recommendations _____	v
<b>CHAPTER ONE – CHANGES TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS _____</b>	<b>1</b>
SO 46: ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING _____	1
SO 97: ROUTINE OF BUSINESS _____	1
SO 108: PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS _____	5
SO 108A: COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS _____	5
<b>APPENDIX ONE – EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES _____</b>	<b>7</b>

# Membership

CHAIR	The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
MEMBERS	Mr Stephen Bromhead MP Mr Michael Daley MP Mr Andrew Fraser MP The Hon. Thomas George MP Ms Melanie Gibbons MP Mr Nick Lalich MP Mr Paul Lynch MP Mr Chris Patterson MP Mr Greg Piper MP The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
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## Terms of reference

The Standing Orders and Procedure Committee has been appointed to inquire into, and report on any matter relating to the Standing Orders or the procedures of the House and its committees.

## Speaker's foreword

The Committee's sixth report of the 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament recommends changes to the Sessional Orders to increase opportunities for Members to give Community Recognition Statements and Private Members' Statements.

It is the Committee's view that the current allotment of up to 47 Private Members' Statements per sitting week should be increased to up to 75 per sitting week.

The Committee also considers that the current 20 and 30 minute periods provided for the giving of Community Recognition Statements on Wednesdays and Thursdays, respectively, should be increased to 30 minutes each sitting day. This will give Members an additional 40 minutes each sitting week in which to give Community Recognition Statements.

The proposed changes recognise the popularity and effectiveness of Private Members' Statements and Community Recognition Statements as a means by which Members can speak about issues that are important to their electorates, and acknowledge people and groups in their communities.

I commend the report and its recommendations to the House.



**The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**  
Chair

# List of recommendations

## **RECOMMENDATION 1**

That the House adopt the proposed changes to the Sessional Orders.

## Chapter One – Changes to the Sessional Orders

### SO 46: ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>46.</b> Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements on Tuesday, at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance on Wednesday, and at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements on Thursday.</p>	<p><b>46.</b> Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved <del>at 10.00 p.m. or</del> at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements. <del>on Tuesday, at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance on Wednesday, and at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements on Thursday.</del></p>

### SO 97: ROUTINE OF BUSINESS

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>97.</b> The House shall conduct its business in the following routine:</p> <p><u>Tuesdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Private Members' Statements, then the Speaker leave the Chair</li> <li>4. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li>5. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>6. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)</li> <li>7. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority</li> <li>8. Question Time</li> <li>9. Ministerial Statements</li> <li>10. Papers</li> <li>11. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements</li> <li>12. Petitions</li> <li>13. Placing or Disposal of Business</li> <li>14. Motion Accorded Priority</li> <li>15. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any</li> <li>16. Government Business</li> </ol>	<p><b>97.</b> The House shall conduct its business in the following routine:</p> <p><u>Tuesdays</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair</li> <li>2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)</li> <li>3. Private Members' Statements <b>up to 1.15 p.m.</b>, <del>then the Speaker leave the Chair</del></li> <li><b>4. Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair</b></li> <li><del>5.4.</del> At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair</li> <li><del>6.5.</del> Ministerial Statements</li> <li><del>7.6.</del> Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)</li> <li><del>8.7.</del> Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority</li> <li><del>9.8.</del> Question Time</li> <li><del>10.9.</del> Ministerial Statements</li> <li><del>11.10.</del> Papers</li> <li><del>12.11.</del> Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements</li> <li><del>13.12.</del> Petitions</li> <li><del>14.13.</del> Placing or Disposal of Business</li> <li><del>15.14.</del> Motion Accorded Priority</li> </ol>

<p>17. Private Members' Statements                  18. Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements, if concluded before 10.00 p.m.</p>	<p><del>16.15.</del> Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any  <del>17.16.</del> Government Business  <del>18.17.</del> Private Members' Statements, <b>after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.</b>  <del>18.</del> <del>Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements, if concluded before 10.00 p.m.</del></p>
<p><u>Wednesdays</u></p>	<p><u>Wednesdays</u></p>
<p>1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair                  2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)                  3. Government Business                  4. At 1.15 p.m. Community Recognition Statements for up to 20 minutes, then 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 under Standing Order 118, and General Business Notices of Motion to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)                  8. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority                  9. Question Time                  10. Ministerial Statements                  11. Papers                  12. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements                  13. Petitions                  14. Placing or Disposal of Business                  15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)                  16. Motion Accorded Priority                  17. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any                  18. Government Business                  19. Private Members' Statements                  20. Matter of Public Importance                  21. Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance, if concluded before 10.00 p.m.                  ...</p>	<p>1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair                  2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)                  3. Government Business <b>up to 1.15 p.m.</b>                  4. <del>At 1.15 p.m.</del> Community Recognition Statements for up to <b>30</b> minutes, then 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 under Standing Order 118, and General Business Notices of Motion to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)                  8. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority                  9. Question Time                  10. Ministerial Statements                  11. Papers                  12. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements                  13. Petitions                  14. Placing or Disposal of Business                  15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)                  16. Motion Accorded Priority                  17. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any                  18. Government Business                  19. <del>Private Members' Statements</del>  <b>Matter of Public Importance</b>  <del>Matter of Public Importance</del>  <b>Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.</b></p>

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS AND COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS  
CHANGES TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS

	<p><del>21. — Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance, if concluded before 10.00 p.m.</del></p> <p>...</p>
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**Routine of Business – Standing Order 97**

	TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY
		10.00 a.m.	Meeting of House	10.00 a.m.	Meeting of House
			Notices of Motions (General Business)		Notices of Motions (General Business)
12.00 noon	Meeting of House		Government Business (up to 1.15 p.m.)		Government Business (up to 30 mins)
	Notices of Motions (General Business)			General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (up to 20 mins)	
	Private Members' Statements (up to 1.15 p.m.)			General Business Orders of the Day for Bills (up to 60 mins)	
				General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills)	
1.15 p.m.	Community Recognition Statements (up to 30 mins)	1.15 p.m.	Community Recognition Statements (up to 30 mins)		
1.45 p.m.	Lunch	1.45 p.m.	Lunch	1.30 p.m.	Lunch
2.15 p.m.	Routine of Business and Question Time	2.15 p.m.	Routine of Business and Question Time	2.15 p.m.	Routine of Business and Question Time
			(Re-ordering of General Business – Bills and General Notices)		
	Motion Accorded Priority and Business with Precedence		Motion Accorded Priority and Business with Precedence		Business with Precedence
	Government Business		Government Business		Committee Reports (Take Note Debate) (up to 30 mins)
					Matter of Public Importance
					Community Recognition Statements (up to 30 mins)
					At 4.30 p.m. Discussion on petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons
					Community Recognition Statements (if not completed)
					Private Members' Statements
					Matter of Public Importance
	Private Members' Statements		Private Members' Statements		
	Adjournment at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements		Adjournment at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements		

**SO 108: PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>108.</b> The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.</li> <li>(2) Up to 47 Private Members' Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.</li> <li>(3) Private Members' 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.</li> <li>(4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members' Statements.</li> </ol>	<p><b>108.</b> The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.</li> <li>(2) Up to <b>75 47</b> Private Members' Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.</li> <li>(3) Private Members' 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.</li> <li>(4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members' Statements.</li> </ol>

**SO 108A: COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS**

Current Sessional Order	Proposed change
<p><b>108A.</b> The procedure for Community Recognition Statements is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker will ask if there are any Community Recognition Statements.</li> <li>(2) Members may make Community Recognition Statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 20 minutes on Wednesday and 30 minutes on Thursday.</li> <li>(3) Members may not give consecutive Community Recognition Statements.</li> <li>(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.</li> </ol>	<p><b>108A.</b> The procedure for Community Recognition Statements is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker will ask if there are any Community Recognition Statements.</li> <li>(2) Members may make Community Recognition Statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of <b>30 20</b> minutes <del>on Wednesday and 30 minutes on Thursday.</del></li> <li>(3) Members may not give consecutive Community Recognition Statements.</li> <li>(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.</li> </ol>

<p>(5) Community Recognition Statements must not contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Matters of policy;</li><li>(b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or</li><li>(c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.</li></ul> <p>(6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Community Recognition Statements.</p>	<p>(5) Community Recognition Statements must not contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Matters of policy;</li><li>(b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or</li><li>(c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.</li></ul> <p>(6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Community Recognition Statements.</p>
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# Appendix One – Extracts from Minutes

## **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 6**

4.00 pm, Wednesday 15 November 2017  
Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

### **Members present:**

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mr Stephen Bromhead MP  
Mr Michael Daley MP  
Ms Melanie Gibbons MP  
Mr Nick Lulich MP  
Mr Greg Piper MP  
The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP

### **Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Mr Jonathan Elliott, A/Clerk-Assistant, Table

The Chair opened the meeting at 4.00 pm.

#### **1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was resolved on the motion of Mr Bromhead, seconded by Mr Piper: That the Hon. Matt Kean MP and Mr John Macgowan be authorised to attend the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Mr Andrew Fraser MP, the Hon. Thomas George MP, Mr Paul Lynch MP and Mr Chris Patterson MP.

#### **3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 5 held on 31 May 2017**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Bromhead, seconded by Mr Lulich: That the minutes of Meeting No. 5 be confirmed.

#### **4. Options for increasing the opportunities for Members to give statements**

The Chair spoke to the briefing paper, noting it had been previously circulated. Discussion ensued.

During the discussion it was resolved on the motion of the Chair, seconded by Mr Lulich: That Mr Ron Hoenig MP be authorised to attend the meeting, pursuant to Standing Order 295(1).

It was then resolved, on the motion of Mr Daley, seconded by Mr Piper:

**Community Recognition Statements**

That the time allocated in the routine of business for Community Recognition Statements be increased by an additional 40 minutes per week, as follows:

- i. Tuesday sittings – Private Members’ Statements up to 1.15 pm, followed by Community Recognition Statements for a period up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair.
- ii. Wednesday sittings - Government Business up to 1.15 pm, followed by Community Recognition Statements for a period up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair.
- iii. Thursday sittings - No change to the taking of Community Recognition Statements.

**Private Members’ Statements**

That Sessional Order 108 be amended to increase the maximum number of Private Members’ Statements which may be made over one sitting week from 47 to 75.

**Matters of Public Importance**

That Sessional Orders be amended to provide for the following Routine of Business on Wednesdays:

- a. Government Business
- b. Matters of Public Importance
- c. Private Members’ Statements

**Adjournment**

That Sessional Order 46 be amended to provide for the House to adjourn without motion moved at the conclusion of Private Members’ Business on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**Consequential amendments**

That any necessary consequential amendments be made to the Standing and Sessional orders to give effect to the resolutions.

**5. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4.45 pm, *sine die*.