



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Second Session of the Fifty-Third Parliament

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(1) Sitting days

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered, this House meet for the despatch of business each week as follows:

Monday	11.00 am
Tuesday	2.30 pm
Wednesday	11.00 am
Thursday	11.00 am
Friday	11.00 am.

(2) Precedence of business

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

1. Government business is to take precedence of general business on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and after 5.00 pm on Thursday each week.
2. General business is to take precedence until 5.00 pm on Thursday each week.

(3) Questions—time for questions without notice

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

1. Questions are to commence at 4.00 pm on Monday and Tuesday, and at 12.00 noon on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
2. Whenever the House adjourns to a day and time later than the time appointed in paragraph 1, questions are to commence 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting of the House.
3. If, at the time for interruption:
 - (a) a division is in progress, the division is to be completed and the result announced,
 - (b) the House is in committee of the whole, the Chair is to leave the Chair and report progress,

and any business then under discussion, if not disposed of, is to be set down on the Notice Paper for a later hour of the sitting.

(4) Motion for the adjournment

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered:

1. On any motion for adjournment to terminate a sitting:

- (a) the question is to be put not later than 30 minutes after the motion has been moved or, when a Minister desires to speak or is then speaking, at the conclusion of the Minister's remarks,
 - (b) any member may speak for 5 minutes on matters not relevant to the motion, but must not refer to matters which are otherwise not in order.
2. Proceedings must be interrupted at 5.00 pm on Thursday and 3.45 pm on Friday to permit a motion for adjournment to be moved to terminate the sitting if a Minister thinks fit.
3. If, at the time of interruption:
 - (a) a division is in progress, the division is to be completed and the result announced,
 - (b) the House is in committee of the whole, the chairman must leave the Chair, report progress and seek leave to sit again.
4. When any business under discussion, if not disposed of, is interrupted under this sessional order, the debate is to stand adjourned and be made an order of the day for the next sitting day at the end of government or general business, as the case may be fixed for that day, but so as not to preclude the operation of standing order 43, unless a motion is moved without amendment or debate for the adjournment of the debate to a day to be stated. proceedings must be interrupted at 5.00 pm on Thursday and 3.45 pm on Friday to permit a motion for adjournment to be moved to terminate the sitting if a minister thinks fit.

(5) Debate on committee reports

That, during the present session and unless otherwise ordered, debate on committee reports is to take precedence after questions on Wednesdays.

(6) Cut off date for government bills

That, during the present session and notwithstanding anything contained in the standing or sessional orders, and unless otherwise ordered, the following procedures apply to the passage of government bills:

- (1) Where a bill is introduced by a Minister, or is received from the Legislative Assembly after Thursday 16 November 2006, debate on the motion for the second reading is to be adjourned at the conclusion of the speech of the Minister moving the motion, and the resumption of the debate is to be made an order of the day for the first sitting day of 2007.
- (2) However, after the first reading, if a Minister declares a bill to be an urgent bill and copies have been circulated to members, the question "That the bill be considered an urgent bill" is to be decided without amendment or debate, except a statement not exceeding 10 minutes each by a Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, or a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, and one cross-bench member. If that question is agreed to,

the second reading debate and subsequent stages may proceed forthwith or at any time during any sitting of the House.

(7) Questions and Answer Paper

That, during the present session and notwithstanding anything contained in the standing or sessional orders, and unless otherwise ordered, the Clerk is to publish a Questions and Answers Paper, printed and circulated to members, on each of the following dates:

Thursday 30 November 2006,
Thursday 7 December 2006,
Thursday 14 December 2006,
Thursday 21 December 2006, and
Tuesday 2 January 2007.

(8) Tabling of reports of Independent Arbiter when the House is not sitting

1. That, for the remainder of the present session, where any document or documents returned to the House as a result of an order for papers under standing order 52 is referred to an independent legal arbiter for evaluation and report on the validity of a claim of privilege, and the report of the independent legal arbiter is lodged with the Clerk while the House is not sitting, the report is:
 - (a) on presentation and for all purposes deemed to have been laid before the House, and
 - (b) for all purposes deemed to be a document published by order or authority of the House.
2. That any document considered by the independent legal arbiter not to be privileged is authorised to be published by the Clerk by order or under the authority of the House.
3. That the tabling of the report of an independent legal arbiter and any documents considered not to be privileged be recorded in the minutes of proceedings of the House, when the House next sits.
4. Nothing in this resolution applies to an order for papers, on motion of Mr Cohen, agreed to by the House on 18 October 2006, and received by the Clerk on 1 November 2006.

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

Sessional orders relating to: sitting days; precedence of business; questions—time for questions without notice; motions for the adjournment; debate on committee bills	Adopted 23 May 2006, minutes no. 2, item 18
Cut-off date for government bills	Adopted 20 September 2006, minutes no. 15, item 2
Questions and answers paper; tabling of reports of Independent Arbiter when House is not sitting	Adopted 22 November 2006, minutes no. 30, items 3 & 24