

Appendix 2

Briefing Paper

Changes to the Council's practices
and procedures

Changes to the Council's practices and procedures

In revising the standing rules and orders the committee has focussed on adopting modern, plain English and gender-neutral language. All the current practices and procedures of the House, including the substantial number of sessional orders adopted each Parliament, have been incorporated. In addition, the orders have been grouped into relevant chapters, to assist members with using them.

While there are many new standing orders, many of these do not reflect new practices. They are simply a codification of practices which have developed in the House since the last amendment of the standing orders in 1985. Some will be familiar as sessional orders, but others have not been previously written down in this format. The comparative list of numbers included in Appendix 3 reflects these standing orders as new, although they do not change the way in which the House currently operates.

However, there are some new rules and practices of which members should be aware. These are listed below.

Chapter 1. Repeal and operation of standing orders

Previously the standing orders required that in cases not provided for, the matter would be determined by reference to the latest edition of Erskine May. This has been broadened to allow the Chair to base decisions on parliamentary customs and practices in general. There is also provision for the President to issue practice notes in relation to the standing orders. These practice notes however are subject to disallowance by the House.

Chapter 3. Office of the President

Amendments in 1991 to section 22G of the Constitution Act 1902 required that the President of the Council be elected according to the procedures for the election of the President in the Senate until such time as the Council adopted its own procedures. Once these standing orders have been adopted and approved by the Governor the Council will have adopted its own procedures and this provision will no longer apply.

Chapter 6. Sitting, quorum and adjournment of House

Standing order 28 on prayers now allows the President to nominate another member or the Clerk to read the prayers.

Chapter 7. Times of sitting and routine of business

The standing order providing for the recall of the House during an adjournment replaces the requirement to move an amendment to the special adjournment motion, and means that there is always a mechanism in place to allow for a recall by a majority of members. Standing order 37 allows a Minister to rearrange government business at any time without having to give notice. Standing order 45 provides an opportunity at the conclusion of formal business for members to postpone an item of business of which they have carriage, without waiting for the matter to be called on. This should facilitate the arrangement of business each day, and remove the uncertainty of when such items are likely to be reached.

Chapter 9. Tabling of documents

The standing order relating to orders for the production of papers has been amended to include procedures for the handling of privileged documents and the adjudication of disputes by an independent arbiter. This will mean that future orders for papers will no longer require this detail to be spelled out, unless there is a variation to the normal procedure. Standing order 55 allows any report or

document required to be tabled in the House to be lodged with the Clerk when the House is adjourned, at which time they will be deemed to have been published. Presently this procedure is spelled out in the original motion or legislation requiring its production. Standing order 56 allows any member to move a motion without notice at the conclusion of a Minister's speech, requiring the Minister to table a document from which the Minister has been quoting. The Minister may refuse to table the document if it is of a confidential nature or if it should more properly be obtained by order. Standing order 59 replaces the previous requirement for a printing committee to recommend that certain documents be printed.

Chapter 11. Questions seeking information

Standing orders 66 and 67 now include a provision which allows replies to questions lodged with the Clerk to be made public immediately following their lodgement with the Clerk. This would give members access to the answers during adjournments of the House whereas currently they must wait until the Questions and Answers Paper is published following the next sitting of the House. In some cases this can involve a delay of several weeks or, less frequently, several months.

Chapter 16. Rules of debate

The motion that a member be no longer heard has been rarely used in the Council. However, the standing order has been amended to provide that if it is used, before putting the question the Chair is to advise the House to consider whether the member has had sufficient opportunity to debate the matter, the member is abusing the standing orders or conventions of the House or obstructing business, or if carried, the rights of the minority would be taken away. This also applies in relation to closure of debate.

Chapter 19. Divisions

If only one member calls for a division, standing order 112 now allows the member to request that their vote be recorded in the Minutes.

Chapter 25. Public bills

Standing order 137 provides that the first reading and printing of a bill introduced in the Council will be taken as one motion, and determined without amendment or debate. Standing order 141 now allows for a bill to be referred to a committee following the second reading, on motion without notice. Previously this could only be moved as an amendment to the motion for second reading. As well as recommitting bills by way of amendment to the motions for adoption of a report from the committee or on the motion for third reading, standing order 146 also provides a mechanism for reconsideration of clauses in committee without having to report back to the House.

Chapter 30. Conduct of members and strangers

Under standing order 191 when a member is suspended from the House they may no longer serve on or attend any proceedings of a committee during the period of suspension. When a member is called to order three times by the President or Chair for repeated breach of the standing orders under standing order 192 the President or Chair may determine the period of suspension, provided it is not beyond the termination of the sitting. Previously the suspension was for the remainder of the sitting.

Chapter 32. Effect and suspension of standing orders

Standing order 198 now provides for a time limit on debate on the motion for the suspension of standing orders.

Chapter 33. Matters of public importance and motions of urgency

Standing order 201 relating to urgency has been amended to allow the proposer and a Minister in response to address the question of urgency before the question on urgency is put. As well, rather than having to seek leave for the motion for adjournment to be withdrawn at the conclusion of the debate, as previously required, the standing order has been amended to provide that the motion simply lapses, with no question being put.

Chapter 35. Committees

While the standing orders have always provided for the appointment of sessional, standing and select committees, the revised orders have standardised the provisions relating to them. It will still be necessary to appoint committees each Parliament, indicating the composition and functions of each committee, but unless there is a requirement to amend the powers or operation of a particular committee it will no longer be necessary to include any reference to these in the motion establishing them. Unless otherwise stated all committees may not sit while the House is sitting, will have a Chair and a Deputy Chair, will have a quorum of 3 members, may appoint sub-committees, may table out of session, and may have take note motions moved in relation to their reports. Where a committee recommends that the government take action, the government will be required to respond to the recommendation.

Appendix 3

Current and Proposed Standing Rules and Orders

Comparative table

Comparative table of standing orders

Original	New	New	Original
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	10, 61	3	-
3A	6	4	-
4	20, 21	5	-
5	17, 20	6	3A
6	24	7	-
		8	-
7(a)	15, sess ord 28	9	-
7(b)	16	10	3
7(c)	18, 22	11	Const Act 22G
8	22	12	8A
8A	12	13	Const Act 22G(4)
9	35, 40	14	Const Act 22G(4)
10	29	15	7a
10A	28	16	7b
11	30	17	5, 97
12	30	18	7c
13	201	19	-
14	31	20	4, 5
15	31	21	4
16	49	22	7c, 8
17	50	23	-
18	52	24	6
19	53	25	Sess ord 21
20	57	26	Sess ord 20
21	42	27	-
22	Omitted	28	10A, sess ord 1
23	196	29	10
24	196	30	11, 12
25	196	31	14, 15, sess ord 15
26	61	32	Sess ord 24
27	63	33	Sess ord 23
28	84	34	-
29	183-189	35	9, sess ord 2
30	183-189	36	-
31	183-189	37	-
32	183-189	38	Sess ord 3
32A	183-189	39	-
33	69	40	9, sess ord 4
34	69	41	Committee res
35	69	42	21
36	69	43	67

Original	New	New	Original
37	69	44	57
38	69	45	-
39	69	46	Sess ord 24
40	70	47	Sess ord 7
41	70		
42	68	48	Sess ord 22
43	68	49	16, 65
44	68	50	17
45	70	51	-
46	70	52	18
47	68	53	19
47A	68	54	-
48	Omitted	55	-
49	71	56	-
50	71, 75	57	20
51	71	58	-
52	71	59	-
53	72	60	-
54	71	61	26, 3
54A	71	62	-
55	74	63	27
56	74, 76	64	Sess ord 9
57	44	65	Sess ord 9
58	101	66	Sess ord 10
59	74	67	29, 32A, sess ord 8
60(a)	75	68	42-44,47,47A, sess ord 11
60(b)(c)	75	69	33-39
61	80	70	40, 41, 45, 46
62	82	71	49-52, 54, 54A
63	81	72	53
64	75, 109	73	56
65	49	74	55, 56, 59, 66
66	74, 81	75	50, 60a,b,c, 64
67	43	76	56
68	85	77	Priv Comm res
69	86	78	Sess ord 5
70	88	79	-
71	87, 89		
72	86	80	61
73	87	81	63, 66
74	90	82	62
75	97, 98	83	83, 97
76	Omitted	84	28, 93
77	91	85	68, 69
78	91	86	72

Original	New	New	Original
79	91	87	71, 73, 221
80	91	88	70
81	91, 92	89	71
82	93	90	74
83	83	91	77-81, sess ord 27
84	95	92	81
85	94	93	82
86	95	94	85
87	95	95	84, 86-88
88	95	96	89
89	96	97	75
90	178	98	75
91	Omitted	99	102
92	Omitted	100	103
93	84	101	58, 98, 99
94	190	102	105, 106, 110-112
95	190	103	113
96	173	104	114
97	83	105	109
98	101	106	100, 101
99	101	107	107, 108, 220
100	106	108	108, 109
101	106	109	64, 115-117, 119-121
102	99	110	118
103	100	111	122, sess ord 15
104	117	112	123, 124
105	102	113	125, 126, 128
106	102	114	127, 128, 129a,b,c
107	108	115	129c,131, sess ord 18
108	107, 108	116	130, 219
109	105, 108	117	104
110	102	118	132
111	102	119	219
112	1020	120	-
113	103	121	133-137
114	104	122	138-140
115	109	123	-
116	109	124	141
117	109	125	144
118	110	126	142
119	109	127	143
120	109	128	145c, 146
121	109	129	145a,b,c
122	111	130	149
123	112	131	147, 148

Original	New	New	Original
124	112	132	150, 151
125	113	133	152, 152A
126	113	134	153
127	114	135	236, 237
128	113, 114	136	163-165, 170
129(a)	114, 115	137	162, 165, 166
129(b)	114	138	Sess ord 12
129(c)	114, 115	139	Sess ord 13
130	116	140	167-169
131	115	141	171, 172, sess ord 14
132	118	142	173, 174, 178
133	121	143	179-182
134	121	144	175-177
135	121	145	183
136	121	146	184, 185
137	121	147	186
138	122	148	187-189, 190b
139	122	149	190a
140	122	150	192
141	124	151	191, sess ord 17
142	126	152	193, 194, 196, 197
143	127	153	195, 198, 199
144	125	154	203, sess ord 16
145	128, 129	155	204, 208
146	128	156	205, 206
147	131	157	207, 209
148	131	158	-
149	130	159	200, 201, 202
150	132	160	210,211, sess ord 10
151	132	161	212
152	133	162	213, 214
152A	133	163	214A
153	134	164	265
154	220	165	266-269
155	220	166	270
156	220	167	271
157	220	168	272-274
158	219	169	275
159	219	170	276
160	219	171	277-279
161	219	172	171
162	137	173	96,215,216,218,220,227,228
163	136	174	217
164	136	175	222, 223
165	136, 137	176	224, 225

Original	New	New	Original
166	137	177	227-229
167	140	178	90
168	140	179	230
169	140	180	231
170	136	181	-
171	141, 172	182	-
172	141	183	Sess ord 6
173	142	184	Sess ord 6
174	142	185	Sess ord 6
175	144	186	Sess ord 6
176	144	187	Sess ord 6
177	144	188	Sess ord 6
178	142	189	Sess ord 6
179	143	190	94, 95, 222, 258, 259
180	143	191	260, 262
181	143	192	261
182	143	193	-
183	145	194	-
184	146	195	-
185	146	196	23-25, 263
186	147	197	263
187	148	198	264
188	148	199	-
189	148	200	Sess ord 25
190(a)	149	201	13
190(b)	148	202	Sess ord 26
191	151	203	Sess ord 26
192	150	204	280
193	152	205	28-
194	152	206	257A
195	153	207	232
196	152	208	246
197	152	209	247
198	153	210	233, 235, 238, 239
199	153	211	242
200	159	212	-
201	159	213	240
202	159	214	241, 244, 245
203	154	215	-
204	155	216	-
205	156	217	-
206	156	218	250, 251
207	157	219	158-161
208	155	220	154-157
209	157	221	-

Original	New	New	Original
210	160	222	249
211	160	223	--
212	161	224	252
213	162	225	-
214	162	226	248
214A	163	227	253, 254
215	173	228	-
216	173	229	-
217	174	230	255
218	173	231	-
219	166, 119	232	Sess ord 30
220	107, 173	233	-
221	87	234	243
222	175, 190		
223	175		
224	176		
225	176		
226	Omitted		
227	173, 177		
228	173, 177		
229	177		
230	177, 179		
231	180		
232	207		
233	210		
234	Omitted		
235	210		
236	135		
237	135		
238	210		
239	210		
240	213		
241	214		
242	211		
243	234		
244	214		
245	214		
246	208		
247	209		
248	226		
249	222		
250	218		
251	218		
252	224		
253	227		

Original	New	New	Original
254	227		
255	230		
256	Omitted		
257	206		
258	190		
259	190		
260	191		
261	192		
262	191		
263	196, 197		
264	198		
265	164		
266	165		
267	165		
268	165		
269	165		
270	166		
271	167		
272	168		
273	168		
274	168		
275	169		
276	170		
277	171		
278	171		
279	171		
280	204, 205		
281	Omitted		

Sessional Orders:

Original	New
1	28
2	35
3	38
4	40
5	78
6	183-189
7	47
8	67
9	64, 65
10	66
11	48
12	138
13	139

Original	New
14	141
15	111
16	154
17	151
18	115
19	160
20	26
21	25
22	48
23	33
24	31, 32, 46
25	200
26	202, 203
27	91
28	15
29	Omitted
30	232

Appendix 4

Minutes of the Committee's proceedings

Minutes from the 52nd Parliament

Note: Astericks indicate text which has been deleted as not relevant to the current inquiry.

Meeting No. 1

Wednesday 18 September 2002

at Parliament House, Sydney at 1.00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

The President (in the Chair)

Mr Gay
Revd Mr Nile
Ms Tebbutt

Mr Gallacher
Mrs Sham-Ho

The Clerk declared the meeting open according to the resolution of the House of 13 March 2002 of establishing the Standing Orders Committee.

The Clerk called for nominations for the Chair.

Revd Mr Nile moved: That the President be elected Chair of the Committee.

There being no further nominations, the President was declared elected Chair.

The President took the Chair.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Della Bosca, Mr Egan and Mr Obeid.

Plain English Standing Orders

The Chair invited the Deputy Clerk to speak to the new draft Plain English Standing Orders.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Tebbutt, that the new draft Plain English Standing Orders be circulated to Committee Members with a view to further discussion at the next meeting of the Committee.

Meeting No. 2

Wednesday 20 September 2002

at Parliament House, Sydney at 10.00 am

MEMBERS PRESENT

The President (in the Chair)

Mr Egan
Mr Obeid

Revd Mr Nile
Mrs Sham-Ho

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Della Bosca, Mr Gallacher, Mr Gay and Ms Tebbutt.

Confirmation of minutes of proceedings

The minutes of meeting no. 1, as circulated, were confirmed on the motion of Revd Mr Nile.

Plain English Standing Orders

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Egan: That the committee meet in early February 2003 to consider the draft Plain English Standing Orders.

The committee adjourned at 10.35 am sine die.

Minutes from the 53rd Parliament

Meeting No. 1

Wednesday 14 May 2003

at Level 44, Grosvenor Place, George Street, Sydney at 9.30 am

MEMBERS PRESENT

The President (in the Chair)

Mr Della Bosca	Mr Egan
Mr Gallacher	Mr Harwin
Mr Jones	Mr Kelly
Revd Mr Nile	Mr Primrose

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Gay and Mr Macdonald.

Also in attendance: John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments, Lynn Lovelock, Deputy Clerk, David Blunt, Director – Research, Janet Williams, Committee Officer.

The Clerk declared the meeting open according to the resolution of the House of 8 May 2003 establishing the Standing Orders Committee.

The Clerk called for nominations for the Chair.

Mr Kelly moved: That the President be elected Chair of the Committee.

There being no further nominations, the President was declared elected Chair.

The President took the Chair.

The Committee noted that Ms Gardiner was in attendance in place of Mr Gay, but that as there was no provision for substitute members she could participate in the Committee's discussions but could not vote in any division.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Kelly, that the Committee agree the presence of the following ministerial staff: Ms Virginia Knox, Ms Julie Sibraa.

Plain English Standing Orders

The Committee considered the new draft Plain English Standing Orders, dated 18 September 2002, which having been circulated, were taken as read.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Egan, that a new Standing Order 15 be inserted, reflecting the provisions of section 19 of the *Interpretation Act 1987*:

The Chair of Committees may be referred to as Chairperson, Chairman or Chairwoman.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that proposed new Standing Order 41 be amended by inserting a requirement for a register to be kept of Members and others inspecting documents laid on the table as a return to order.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that proposed new Standing Order 70 (1) be amended by deleting the word “must” and inserting instead the word “should”.

The President directed that the minutes of proceedings record her opposition to the inclusion of proposed new Standing Order 70 (1).

After considering chapter 26, the Committee deferred further consideration of the proposed new Standing Orders, with a revised copy of the those Standing Orders already considered to be circulated to members of the Committee, prior to further consideration and adoption at a future meeting.

Proposed resolutions establishing committees

The Committee considered the proposed resolutions to establish the Legislative Council’s Standing Committees, together with proposed new sessional orders concerning committees, dated 7 May 2003, which having been circulated to all members, were taken as read.

Debate ensued.

Mr Kelly moved that paragraph 25 (1) of the proposed resolution entitled *Law and Justice, Social Issues and State Development Standing Committees* and paragraph 21 (1) of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees*, providing for statements of dissent, be deleted.

Debate ensued.

The Committee deferred further consideration of this motion until the next meeting.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Kelly, that paragraph 25 (2) of the proposed resolution entitled *Law and Justice, Social Issues and State Development Standing Committees* and paragraph 21 (2) of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees* be amended by deleting subparagraph (b).

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that a new paragraph be added after paragraph 25 (2) of the proposed resolution entitled *Law and Justice, Social Issues and State Development Standing Committees* and paragraph 21 (2) of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees* to require that, should a Committee so resolve, a Chair’s Foreword must be approved by the Committee prior to the tabling of the Committee’s report.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees* be amended to provide for five committees, to be called General Purpose Standing Committees.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that paragraph 14 of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees*, providing for substitute members, be amended by deleting subparagraph (5).

Revd Mr Nile moved: That paragraph 4 of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees*, providing for the initiation of inquiries by the committees, be deleted.

Debate ensued.

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Egan, Mr Kelly, Revd Mr Nile, Mr Primrose

Noes: Mr Gallacher, Mr Harwin, Mr Jones.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Meeting No. 2

Tuesday 20 May 2003

President's Suite, Parliament House, Sydney at 2.00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

The President (in the Chair)

Mr Della Bosca	Mr Egan
Mr Gallacher	Mr Gay
Mr Harwin	Mr Jones
Mr Kelly	Mr Macdonald
Revd Mr Nile	Mr Primrose

Also in attendance: John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments, Warren Cahill, Clerk Assistant Committees and Usher of the Black Rod, David Blunt, Director – Research.

Ministerial staff in attendance: Ms Virginia Knox, Ms Julie Sibraa.

Correction of Minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Kelly, that the minutes of meeting No 1 be amended, in view of the fact that Ms Gardiner was not entitled to vote at the meeting, to delete the reference to Ms Gardiner in the division recorded on page 3, so that the division will be recorded as:

The Committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Egan, Mr Kelly, Revd Mr Nile, Mr Primrose

Noes: Mr Gallacher, Mr Harwin, Mr Jones.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Proposed resolutions establishing committees

The Committee considered the proposed resolutions to establish the Legislative Council's Standing Committees, together with proposed new sessional orders concerning committees, incorporating changes agreed to at the previous meeting, which having been circulated to all members, were taken as read.

Mr Kelly moved: That paragraph 25 of the proposed resolution entitled *Law and Justice, Social Issues and State Development Standing Committees* and paragraph 20 of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees*, providing for statements of dissent, be deleted.

Debate ensued.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile that the question be amended by adding at the end the words “and that the Standing Orders Committee, at a future meeting, consider possible procedures to provide for the tabling of statements of dissent separate from Committee reports.”

Question then: That paragraph 25 of the proposed resolution entitled *Law and Justice, Social Issues and State Development Standing Committees* and paragraph 20 of the proposed resolution entitled *Portfolio Standing Committees*, providing for statements of dissent, be deleted, and that the Standing Orders Committee, at a future meeting, consider possible procedures to provide for the tabling of statements of dissent separate from Committee reports—put and passed.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that the proposed sessional order, concerning debate on committee reports, as circulated to members, be adopted.

The Committee adjourned at 2.28 pm.

Meeting No. 3

Tuesday 10 June 2003

At level 1, 139 Macquarie Street, Sydney at 2.00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

The President (in the Chair)

Mr Egan	Mr Gay
Mr Harwin	Mr Jones
Mr Kelly	Mr Primrose
Mr Ryan (Gallacher)	

Substitute Members

The Committee noted the resolution of the House of 29 May 2003 providing for the appointment of members as substitutes for members of the Standing Orders Committee.

The Committee noted that, in accordance with the resolution of the House, Mr Ryan was in attendance as a substitute for Mr Gallacher.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Della Bosca, Mr Gallacher, Mr Macdonald and Revd Mr Nile.

Also in attendance: John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments, Lynn Lovelock, Deputy Clerk, David Blunt, Director – Research, Jovy Cano, Executive Assistant to the Clerk.

Ministerial staff in attendance: Ms Virginia Knox.

Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting No. 2

The minutes of meeting No 2 were confirmed, on the motion of Mr Egan.

Plain English Standing Orders

The Committee considered the revised draft of the new Plain English Standing Orders, dated 4 June 2003, incorporating the changes in Chapters 1 – 26 agreed to at meeting No 1, which having been circulated, were taken as read.

The Committee deliberated in relation to Chapters 27-32.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Egan: That proposed standing order 177 “Conduct of visitors” be amended by the insertion after paragraph (3) of a new paragraph:

(4) Paragraph (3) does not apply in respect of a member breastfeeding an infant.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee considered redrafted Chapter 32 – Committees, dated 4 June 2003, which having been circulated, was taken as read.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Primrose: That the proposed Standing Order entitled “Electronic participation in meetings” be deleted.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Jones: that the proposed Standing Order entitled “Members’ opinions to be reflected” be amended by the addition after subparagraph (4) (b) of a new subparagraph (4) (c):

- (c) the statement does not contain any matter which would unreasonably adversely affect or injure a person, or unreasonably invade a person’s privacy.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee agreed to the inclusion of additional proposed Standing Orders dealing with the following subjects: Hansard; resolutions of continuing effect, Practice Notes; Tabling of reports and documents when House not sitting; Parliamentary Secretary; President leaving the Chair; Papers; Minister present in the Chamber.

The Committee noted that a further meeting would be held to review the changes to the proposed Standing Orders and to agree to a report to the House.

The Clerk indicated that there remained a number of resolutions of the House, and proposed new resolutions, which the Committee would need to consider, dealing with the following subjects: Broadcasting of Proceedings; Treatment of Witnesses; Unauthorised Disclosure of committee proceedings.

The Committee agreed that the proposed Standing Orders should be adopted as sessional orders for the spring 2003 sitting period, to provide an opportunity for their operation to be reviewed, prior to being laid before the Governor in accordance with section 15 (2) of the *Constitution Act 1902*.

The Committee adjourned at 5.00 pm.

Meeting No. 4

Wednesday 17 September 2003

President's Suite, Parliament House, Sydney at 1.00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

The President (in the Chair)

Mr Gallacher
Mr Harwin
Revd Mr Nile

Mr Gay
Mr Kelly
Mr Primrose

Apologies were received from: Mr Della Bosca; Mr Egan; and Mr Macdonald.

Also in attendance: John Evans, Clerk of the Parliaments, Lynn Lovelock, Deputy Clerk, and David Blunt, Director – Research.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 3

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that the minutes of meeting No. 3 be confirmed.

Further consideration of Draft Standing Orders

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that proposed new Standing Order 17 (1) be amended by inserting, after the words “The Deputy President” the words “when presiding in the House.”

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose, that proposed new Standing Order 67 be amended by inserting a new subparagraph noting that the rules for questions (Standing order 65) also apply to written questions.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that proposed new Standing Order 84 (3) be amended by inserting after the word “member” the words “not addressing the House”.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that proposed new Standing Order 138 (1) be amended by inserting after the word “bill” the words “provided that copies have been circulated to members.”

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Harwin, that proposed new Standing Order 201 be amended to provide for the member proposing the urgency motion to speak to the question of urgency for not more than 10 minutes, followed by a response from a Minister for not more than 10 minutes, at the conclusion of which the President puts the question on urgency.

Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair's draft report entitled "Proposed New Standing Rules and Orders", as circulated, was taken as read.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that the report be the report of the committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Revd Mr Nile, that the report be signed by the Chair and presented to the House on Thursday 18 September 2003.

The Committee adjourned at 2.00 pm.

John Evans
Clerk of the Parliaments