



PROCEDURAL DIGEST

Legislative Assembly

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT, FIRST SESSION
NO. 2/2020: 25 FEBRUARY – 5 MARCH 2020

February/March 2020

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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.

MEMBERS

Amendment to the Code of Conduct for Members

On Thursday 5 March 2020 the Leader of the House, the Hon. Andrew Constance MP, moved that the Code of Conduct for Members, which was adopted on 7 May 2019, be amended. The amendments include a new statement of purpose, re-ordering of some sections and commentary sections providing sources for rules and advice. The recent amendments were the result of reviews conducted by the Legislative Assembly Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics and the Legislative Council Privileges Committee. A copy of the Code of the Conduct for Members can be found [here](#) on Parliament's webpage.

Debate ensued and adoption of the amended Code was agreed to on the voices.

Votes and Proceedings: 5/3/20, pp. 594-8.

(Procedural note: A Code of Conduct for Members was first adopted in 1998. The Code provides guidance on expected standards of behaviour for Members, and a substantial breach of the Code by a Member could amount to corrupt conduct under the [Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988](#).)

BUSINESS

Condolence motion – 2019-2020 bushfire season

On Tuesday 25 February 2020 debate resumed on the motion of condolence for the victims of the 2019-2020 bushfires.

Immediately after the resumption of the debate, the question that the motion be agreed to was put and carried unanimously with Members and officers of the House standing in their places as a mark of respect. The terms of the motion were that the House:

- (1) Expresses its deepest condolences to the families, communities and loved ones of the 25 men and women who have tragically lost their lives during the catastrophic and unprecedented 2019-2020 bushfire season.
- (2) Honours the extraordinary sacrifice of Geoffrey Keaton, Andrew O'Dwyer and Samuel McPaul, Rural Fire Service volunteers who tragically lost their lives while protecting the lives and property of others.
- (3) Places on the record its gratitude for the courage of Captain Ian McBeth, First Officer Paul Hudson and Flight Engineer Rick DeMorgan Jr of Coulson Aviation and the United States of America, who died in service to New South Wales.
- (4) Offers its sympathy to those who have been affected by the fires whether through injury or the loss of or damage to their homes or livelihoods.
- (5) Acknowledges the devastation caused by this season's bushfires, which has already seen 2,400 homes destroyed, over 11,000 buildings lost or damaged, 5.5 million hectares burnt, countless local businesses affected and hundreds of millions of animals killed.

Votes and Proceedings: 25/2/20, pp. 549-50.

Letter from the Senate of California

On Tuesday 3 March 2020, the Speaker tabled a letter, dated 25 February 2020, from Senator Toni G. Atkins, President pro Tempore of the Senate of the State of California, to the Hon. John Ajaka MLC, President of the Legislative Council, and to the Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, regarding the NSW Bushfires.

Votes and Proceedings: 3/3/20, p. 574.

Standing Order 264.

(Procedural note: Tabling a document is a formal presentation of that document to Parliament. Standing Order 264 provides that papers may be 'laid upon the Table' by the Speaker, Ministers, Chairs of committees, the Clerk, statutory provision, resolution of the House or the command of the Governor. Tabling a document ensures the information contained in the document becomes available to all Members and to the public. Documents tabled in the Legislative Assembly are recorded in the Votes and Proceedings on the date they are tabled and are made available on the Legislative Assembly's 'Tabled Papers and Reports' webpage. The letter from the Senate of California can be found on the 'Tabled Papers and Reports' webpage [here](#).)

CHAMBER

Modernisation of the Parliament

On Tuesday 25 February 2020, the Speaker made a statement in recent initiatives to modernise the operations of the Legislative Assembly. Among other things the Speaker advised that:

- After 164 years of paper-based tallying, the Whips will now tally divisions using an app on a tablet;
- Clerks-at-the-Table will now produce a 'running record' of Legislative Assembly proceedings that will be published on Parliament's website; and

- Microphones at the lecterns have been upgraded to allow the Speaker to turn off microphones on either side of the table. Consequently, Members who disregard calls to order from the Speaker and fail to resume their seat will no longer be heard at the table.

Votes and Proceedings: 25/2/20, p. 550.

Hansard: 25/2/20, p. 10.

STAFF

Department of the Legislative Assembly Senior Management Review

On Thursday 27 February 2020 the Speaker made a statement in relation to the outcome of the Senior Management Review of the Department of the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker advised that the new structure now comprises three key areas, each which report to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Corporate and Privilege, House and Procedure, and Scrutiny and Engagement. The Speaker further advised that Jonathan Elliott had been appointed to the new role of Clerk-Assistant, Scrutiny and Engagement and Simon Johnston had been appointed as Serjeant-at-Arms.

Votes and Proceedings: 27/2/20, p. 569.

Hansard: 27/2/20, p. 32.