



Speech by

Mr T. MACKENROTH

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Hansard 4 August 1998

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth— ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.52 a.m.): I move—

"That for this session—

Omit Standing Order 123A and insert new Standing Order.

Power to Order Withdrawal of Disorderly Member

123A.(1) The Speaker, or the Chairman of Committees, may, after warning such Member, order any Member who in his or her opinion, continues to be grossly disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the Legislative Assembly Chamber. The Speaker or the Chairman of Committees may order the Member to withdraw in accordance with the provisions of subsections (2) or (3).

(2) A Member ordered to withdraw immediately from the Legislative Assembly Chamber under this Standing Order must do so forthwith, and must, during the remainder of the day's sitting, absent himself from the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Without prejudice to any other right power or remedy of the House or of the Speaker or the Chairman, the Speaker or Chairman may without further warning but otherwise in the manner provided in the Standing Order as to Order in the House name any Member who having been ordered to withdraw under this Standing Order fails to withdraw immediately from the Legislative Assembly Chamber or to absent himself from the Legislative Assembly Chamber during the remainder of the day's sitting.

(3) A Member ordered to withdraw immediately from the Legislative Assembly Chamber under this Standing Order must do so forthwith, and must, during the remainder of the day's sitting remain absent from the Legislative Assembly Chamber. However, the Member may enter the Chamber during the ringing of the bells for the purpose of voting in a division. Once the Speaker or Chairman of Committees has declared the numbers the Member must withdraw immediately from the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Without prejudice to any other right power or remedy of the House or of the Speaker or the Chairman, the Speaker or Chairman may without further warning but otherwise in the manner provided in the Standing Order as to Order in the House name any Member who having been ordered to withdraw under this Standing Order fails to withdraw immediately from the Legislative Assembly Chamber or to remain absent from the Legislative Assembly Chamber as set out in this subsection."

This notice of motion seeks to add a section to Standing Order 123A. When we met with the other parties prior to the commencement of this Parliament, the Premier outlined that we would be introducing an amendment to Standing Order 123A to give the Speaker the power to order that members withdraw from the Chamber for the remainder of the day but still have the ability to vote. Opposition members then raised concerns with me, because they felt that that was taking away the power of the Speaker. Because of those concerns, I did not move this as a sessional order last Friday

morning when I moved other motions. However, I did amend and change it to leave the Standing Order as it existed so that, under Standing Order 123A, the Speaker will have the power to ask a member to withdraw from the Chamber without giving that member the power to vote. That is the same power as the Speaker had before. However, it gives the Speaker a new power, namely, to ask a member to withdraw from the Chamber but to still have the power to vote. So the Standing Order that is being proposed as a sessional order is not in any way taking away from the Speaker any power whatsoever. In fact, it gives the Speaker a choice that he can exercise.

I believe that this answers the concerns raised with me by honourable members. Members should allow this Standing Order to be passed for this session so that we can trial it and see how it operates.
