




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

MOTION: AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.59 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing orders 263A and 263B of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendments circulated in my name, effective immediately.

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

STANDING RULES AND ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

CHAPTER 42 ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

1. Omit Standing Order 263A, insert the following:

'263A. Notification of absence of member for more than four consecutive sitting days

(1) If a member is absent, or intends to be absent, from the Legislative Assembly for more than four consecutive sitting days, the member shall notify the Speaker in writing of their absence or intended absence. The notification must state the length of the absence, the reason for the absence and be supported by a medical certificate or any other evidence that is acceptable to the Speaker.

(2) If a member is absent, or intends to be absent, from the Legislative Assembly for more than four sitting days within any period of nine consecutive sitting days, the member shall notify the Speaker in writing of their absence or intended absence. The notification must state the length of the absence, the reason for the absence and be supported by a medical certificate or any other evidence that is acceptable to the Speaker.

(3) Upon receipt of a written notification by a member in accordance with (1) or (2), the Speaker shall, on the next sitting day, report the member's absence, or intended absence, to the House.'

2. Omit Standing Order 263B, insert the following:

'263B. Leave of absence of member for 12 consecutive sitting days or more

(1) The House may, by motion without notice, grant a member a leave of absence from attending the Legislative Assembly for 12 consecutive sitting days or more. The motion must state the length of leave of absence.

(2) A member shall be excused from attending sittings of the House, or any committee, so long as they have a leave of absence in accordance with (1).

(3) A leave of absence shall cease if the member attends a sitting of the House or any committee before the expiry of the period of leave.'

The amendments provide that a member must provide written notice to the Speaker if they will be absent for a period of more than four consecutive sitting days or for more than four sitting days within any period of nine consecutive sitting days and in both instances to be supported by a medical certificate or any other acceptable evidence. The amendments are in accordance with the recommendations in the CLA report No. 9 tabled yesterday.