




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2017

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.57 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name be agreed to, effective immediately.

Amendment to Standing Orders to be moved by the Leader of the House

1. Standing Order 280 (Affected person may make a submission), subsection (3)—

Omit, insert—

(3) A person shall ensure a submission is received by the Speaker within four years from the date on which the person has been adversely referred to in the Legislative Assembly or a committee.

This matter, Mr Speaker, is one that you raised this morning in a Speaker's statement in relation to chapter 46 of the standing rules and orders that provides for a citizen's right of reply. You raised a very specific matter and concern that had been expressed, and I note that this has been expressed over some years at different times. At different times there have been points made or issues or experiences that have highlighted this concern whereby a citizen's right of reply to an adverse comment made in this House has been constrained by the fact that that right of reply expires with the life of a particular parliament. What has been proposed—and, I note for the benefit of the House, supported by the members of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in bringing this back to the chamber—is to extend the right of reply to be available to adversely named persons and corporations for a four-year period after an adverse comment is made in the parliament, as opposed to expiring at the end of that particular parliament.

The key risk is that a member of the parliament, not keeping up to the standards that we would like to see all members of this parliament adhere to, might use the advantage and opportunity of parliamentary privilege to make comments about a person in the dying days of a parliament knowing that any adversely named person might not have the ability to get together their citizen's response—their right of reply—in a timely way and ensure that it is accepted by the Speaker and the parliament and recorded within the parliamentary record. This change today is one that ensures all citizens in Queensland have the opportunity to have their right of reply to any adverse comments which might be made by a member while continuing to protect the rights and privileges of all members of this House. I urge the House to support the motion.