



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

SESSIONAL ORDERS

Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.03 pm): I move—

That the sessional orders for the 56th Parliament circulated in my name be agreed to and effective from Friday, 16 February 2018.

Sessional Orders—56th Parliament (First Session)

Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- (b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).
- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

Tuesday

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—
Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.30pm—
Government Business

5.30pm—7.00pm—
Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.00pm—7.30pm—
Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Wednesday

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm—7.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—7.00pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)

Thursday

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

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Ministerial Notices of Motion
Ministerial Statements
Any other Government Business
Personal Explanations
Tabling of Reports
Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(d) On a Tuesday afternoon—

(i) if there are no Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise continue with Government Business until automatic adjournment;

(ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the House will commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until automatic adjournment.

(e) If the House sits on any day other than a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, then unless otherwise ordered, the order of business shall be as follows:

From 9.30 am—10.00 am—

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Ministerial Notices of Motion

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Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.00am—10.30am—

Question Time

10.30am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—until adjournment moved—

Government Business

Automatic Adjournment

2. (1) Standing Order 56 is suspended for this session.

(2) At the time specified for the Automatic Adjournment in the Order of Business for each Sitting Day, the Speaker shall:

- (a) notify the House that it is the time for the Automatic Adjournment of the House;
- (b) shall call on up to ten members to speak for no more than three minutes each to make an adjournment statement; and
- (c) at the conclusion of the members' statements in 2(b) above, shall declare the House is adjourned to the date and time previously agreed to by the House.

(3) Notwithstanding Sessional Orders 1(b) and 2(2), the motion "That the House do now adjourn" may be moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House at any time despite the order of business, in which case there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.

Debate of Parliamentary committee reports

3. (1) If a committee report is tabled that is not:

- (a) a report on a bill pursuant to Part 5 of the Standing Orders;
- (b) an annual report of a Committee;
- (c) 'a report on travel undertaken by a Committee;
- (d) a report of the Ethics Committee; or
- (e) a report by a Committee on subordinate legislation

then a motion shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the committee report.

(2) Motions that the House take note of committee reports will be brought on for debate in the time set aside each Thursday in the order in which they are placed on the notice paper.

(3) A debate of a motion in (2) not completed may be adjourned to the following Thursday.

(4) A motion in (2) cannot be amended.

(5) A motion in accordance with (1) is set down on the notice paper regardless of whether the report is tabled whilst the House is sitting or not sitting.

Consideration of Ethics Committee Reports in regard to Citizen's Right of Reply

4 When the Ethics Committee reports to the House regarding a Citizen's Right of Reply in accordance with Standing Order 283, the committee's recommendation will be considered by the House on the next sitting day following the tabling of the committee's report and at the time in the Order of Business as specified in Sessional Order 1.

Private Members' Bills

5. (1) A member who is not a Minister may introduce a Bill during time set aside in the Order of Business for Private Members' Bills. In such a case the Member introducing the Bill may either complete the speech in the time allotted or, if not completed, adjourn their speech to the next period allotted.

(2) A Private Members' Bill which has been reported on by a portfolio or other committee, will be brought on for debate on the sitting Tuesday evening next following the passage of three calendar months after the tabling of the committee's report on the Bill.

(3) The House will continue to debate the Bill on each following sitting Tuesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

Condolence Motions

6. (1) A motion of condolence may be moved as the first item of business after Speaker's Statements in the Order of Business.

(2) If a motion of condolence is moved in accordance with (1), the debate on such motion will last no more than one hour, after which time the question shall be put.

(3) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved in accordance with (1) and (2), the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing 45 minutes after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements

7. During the time set aside for Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements, no questions can be put nor divisions called.

Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

8. The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<p>Address in Reply Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply 	SO 47	28 hours 20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
<p>Adjournment Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total time – Each member 	Sessional Order 2(2)(b)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<p>Adjournment Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total time – Each member 	Sessional Order 2(3)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<p>Bills—Government Bills</p> <p>Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading</p> <p>Government Bills reported on by a committee</p> <p>Second reading debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minister – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Minister in reply <p>Consideration in detail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mover (Minister) – Other members (on each question) <p><i>Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee</i></p> <p>Second reading debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minister 	<p>SO 129 SO 130</p> <p>SO 138</p> <p>SO 146 & SO 147</p> <p>SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138</p>	<p>1 hour No debate</p> <p>30 minutes 30 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes</p> <p>No limit 3 minutes</p> <p>To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Mover in reply <p>Consideration in detail</p> <p>Mover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each questions) <p>– Other members (on each question)</p>	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	<p>1 hour 15 minutes 30 minutes</p> <p>No limit 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes 1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes</p>
<p>Bills—Private Members' Bills</p> <p>Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading Second reading debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All members – Mover in reply <p>Consideration in detail</p> <p>Where Bill has been considered by portfolio committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mover – Other members (on each question) <p>Where Bill has not been considered by portfolio committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mover – Other members (on each question) – Minister responsible for policy area (on each question) 	<p>SO 129 & Sessional Order 5 SO 130 SO 138</p> <p>SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156</p>	<p>1 hour No debate</p> <p>10 minutes 30 minutes</p> <p>No limit 3 minutes</p> <p>No limit 3 minutes 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes</p>
<p>Debate of Committee Reports—each member</p>	Sessional Order 3	5 minutes

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
Disallowance of statutory instruments – Total time – Mover – Other members – Minister in reply	SO 59	1 hour 30 minutes 15 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
Dissent to ruling of Speaker – Total time – Each member	SO 250	1 hour 10 minutes
Election of Speaker – Each member	SO 39	5 minutes
Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate – Motions and Second Reading Debates – Question Time		5 minutes 2 minutes
Matters concerning privilege	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
Matters of Public Interest – Total time – Leader of Opposition or nominee – Other members	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
Motions – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	Chapter 15	10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes
Personal Explanations —each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
Private Members' Motions (Wednesday 6.00–7.00 pm) – Total time – All members	Sessional Order 1	1 hour 5 minutes
Private Members' Statements – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 3 minutes
Tabling of Reports – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report – Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes
Questions Without Notice – Question time (total time) – Member asking question – Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 30 minutes on Friday At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes

Dress standards

9. Dress standards in the parliamentary chamber should be appropriate to the Queensland climate and reflect general community standards. All members and staff are expected to dress in business attire.

Male members and staff may wear a long-sleeve business shirt and tie or coat and long-sleeve business shirt without tie.

This week 93 members, some new and some returning, took their seats for the first time in the 56th Parliament, pledging to well and truly serve the people of Queensland. While I have no doubt that all honourable members will strive to work hard and in the best interests of their constituents, I do believe that collectively we can take steps to make the business of this House more open, transparent, accessible and efficient for all Queenslanders. What is more, the proposed sessional orders for the 56th Parliament aim to bring the Queensland parliament in line with many other jurisdictions across this country by streamlining the work of the House and setting sensible working hours.

In the previous debate we heard that 93 members should be able to speak to this motion. However, the fact is that 93 members are not allowed to speak to this motion. In this House there are many new members who have not made their first speech so would not have that opportunity. What they will get is the right to vote on this important motion to set the sessional orders going forward.

The significant changes in relation to the sessional orders as proposed mean that the House will sit from 9.30 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and rise, after the adjournment debate, at 7.30 on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and 6.30 on Thursday evening. The changes will ensure that at certain times—private members' statements, matters of public interest and adjournment debates—there will be no questions put or divisions called, allowing that time to occur uninterrupted. Those are very important times for backbenchers. The time set aside for matters of public interest, private members' statements and the adjournment debate are very important times for both government and non-government members to talk about issues that are important to them. Under the proposals we are putting forward, those three times allocated for private members' business will be able to occur uninterrupted without any questions being put or divisions called. That is important.

In addition, it means that on Tuesday and Thursday, for one hour after the lunch break, no questions can be put or divisions called whilst matters of public importance and private members' statements are being made. That will allow parliamentary committees to undertake work in the parliamentary precinct, be it public or private hearings, knowing that they can do so uninterrupted, as members will not be called to attend a division.

We have changed the lunch break from one and a half hours to one hour, because we believe that is sensible. There will not be a dinner break because we will sit until 7.30 in the evening.

How does this compare to other jurisdictions? The Victorian parliament adjourns at 7.30 pm; the West Australian parliament adjourns at 10 pm on Tuesday, 7 pm on Wednesday and 5 pm on Thursday; and the South Australia and Tasmanian parliaments adjourn at 7 pm. For the House of Representatives in our federal parliament, Malcolm Turnbull changed the rules so that they now finish at 8 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at 5 pm on Thursday evening. Importantly, over a week the majority of those states average between 21 and 25 hours of actual parliamentary sitting hours. Under this proposal, we will sit for 26 hours.

We are not seeking to cut back on time. We are seeking to have a more efficient use of time in this parliament. It is not too much to ask this parliament to, over four days, work three full sitting days with committees sitting on a Monday, because that is an efficient way for this chamber to operate and it will ensure that members of the public can watch our work, rather than having important debates and decisions made at one, two or three o'clock in the morning. It is about time that we had a sensible, respectful and adult conversation about what reasonable working times are for this chamber, which is what this motion to change sessional orders seeks to achieve. It is about time that the Queensland parliament comes into line with many other jurisdictions. We ask members to support this motion.