




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2020

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.21 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the sessional orders for the temporary suspension and replacement of standing orders 103 to 106 of chapter 19 of standing orders circulated in my name be agreed to.

Amendments to Standing Orders

1. Standing Orders 103 to 106 of Chapter 19 are suspended by these Sessional Orders, until revoked, and replaced with the following—

“CHAPTER 19 DIVISIONS

103. Procedure for putting question and calling a division

- (1) When the Speaker has put a question to the House, after the voices have been given, the Speaker shall declare whether the “Ayes” or the “Noes” have it.
- (2) Any member who has voted against the majority as declared by the Speaker may demand a division by calling “divide”.
- (3) When a division is demanded, the bells shall be rung for one minute and the Speaker shall then call for a party vote in accordance with Standing Order 105.
- (4) If any member disagrees with the result of a party vote, they may call “challenge”.
- (5) When a challenge to a party vote is made, the Speaker will order the division bells to be rung for four minutes in accordance with Standing Order 105A after which time there will be a challenge vote in accordance with Standing Order 106.
- (6) If there has already been a challenge in respect of that order of the day or motion, and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker may order the division bells to be rung for one minute.

104. Party vote unless a conscience issue

- (1) Where a division is demanded, a party vote or challenge vote is held unless the subject of the vote is to be treated as a conscience vote.
- (2) If the Speaker has received prior advice from a party whip of a conscience vote, the Speaker will permit a personal vote to be held instead of a party vote.

105. Procedure for a party vote

- (1) When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House.
- (2) In a party vote,—
 - (a) votes may only be cast for the “Ayes” or “Noes”;
 - (b) the Speaker asks the Government Whip and Opposition Whip to cast the party’s votes;
 - (c) the total number of votes cast for each party must include only those members present within the parliamentary precinct together with any properly authorised proxy votes;
 - (d) members of minor parties, recognised parties or independents present in the House must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the “Ayes” or “Noes”.

- (e) after the votes have been cast by parties, the Speaker asks the Clerk to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in (d) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate;
 - (f) the Speaker declares the result to the House; and
 - (g) the results of the vote will be entered in the Record of Proceedings.
- (3) For this Standing Order a minor party is any party consisting of five or fewer members.

105A. Bars to be closed after time elapsed, for challenge vote

- (1) The bars shall not be closed whilst the division bells are ringing.
- (2) Immediately after the lapse of the period so specified by the Speaker and the division bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall direct the bars to be closed.
- (3) After the bars are closed no member shall then enter or leave the Chamber until after the division is reported.

106. Procedure for a challenge vote

- (1) When the bells have finished ringing, the bars will be closed and the Speaker shall state the question to the House.
- (2) To cast their votes, members must sit in their allocated places in the Chamber. Unless they have advised their Whip that they intend to cast a contrary vote, each member of the parties that make up the government or official opposition are deemed to be voting to support the response of their party members given at the time the Speaker originally put the question.
- (3) Members of the parties that make up the government or official opposition that intend casting a contrary vote must advise their Whip. These Members must then also advise the Clerk of their intention to cast a contrary vote and indicate whether they are voting for the "Ayes" or "Noes".
- (4) Members of minor parties, recognised parties or independents must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the "Ayes" or "Noes".
- (5) The Government Whip, Opposition Whip and Clerk will report the number of "Ayes" or "Noes". The report must only relate to votes cast by members present in the Chamber and every member present must vote. The votes will be reported in the following order:
 - (i) The Speaker asks the Government Whip to report the government party's votes.
 - (ii) The Speaker asks the Opposition Whip to report the official opposition party's vote.
 - (iii) The Speaker asks the Clerk to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in accordance with (3) or (4) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate.
- (6) Any Member may, before the result of the vote is announced by the Speaker, challenge the report of votes reported by the Government Whip, Opposition Whip or the Clerk. If a report is challenged, the Speaker may direct that the report stand, be corrected or that the matter be resolved by a personal vote.
- (7) The Speaker announces the result to the House.
- (8) The Government Whip and Opposition Whip will immediately provide the Clerk the names of those members of their party that were not present for the vote.
- (9) The Clerk will record the result of the vote and the names of those members voting "Aye" and "No" and publish those details in the Record of Proceedings.
- (10) If fewer than five members vote with either the "Ayes" or the "Noes", the Clerk will record whether the question was agreed to or not in the Record of Proceedings but the result of the vote and the names of members voting will not be recorded in accordance with (9) above.
- (11) If an error occurs in any record of result, the error shall be reported to the House by the Speaker at the earliest practical time and the Record of Proceedings altered.
- (12) In this Standing Order a reference to Government Whip, Opposition Whip or the Clerk includes a reference to their delegates.'