




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2020

MOTION

Adoption of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the sessional orders circulated in my name detailing special procedures for transacting business shall be adopted and apply from assent to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 until that bill lapses or the House is dissolved.

SESSIONAL ORDERS—SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR TRANSACTING BUSINESS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES (COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

Special Procedures take precedence

1. These Sessional Orders implementing Special Procedures, where inconsistent with Standing Orders and other Sessional Orders, take precedence until the COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 lapses or the House is dissolved.

Electronic participation

2. The Speaker may approve technology (including hardware, software and systems of use) for meetings of the Legislative Assembly whereby all or some members, including the Speaker or Deputy Speaker presiding, may be present by telephone or video or other electronic means.
3. The technology approved by the Speaker must enable business to be transacted and allow reasonably continuous and contemporaneous communication between the Speaker or Deputy Speaker presiding and the members present, and between the members present.
4. The Speaker may:
 - (a) Mandate security protocols and procedures for Members and Officers to follow using the technology to join the meeting; and
 - (b) Mandate the networks and devices that may be used (or not used).
5. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly may approve modified rules of debate, order and behaviour for members seeking the call, taking points of order and other matters related to regulating debate which may be at odds with normal practice and procedure, but are best adapted to enable the meeting to occur with the approved technology.
6. The Speaker shall, prior to any sitting where technology in 2. and 3. is to be used, ensure reasonable instructions and support to all Members prior to the meeting to enable their participation by the technology approved by the Speaker.

Broadcast

7. The Speaker shall approve the broadcast of meetings of the Legislative Assembly held in accordance with 2.
8. The Speaker shall determine whether such broadcast will be live or delayed.

Quorum

9. Members who are participating in meetings of the Legislative Assembly by the technology approved by the Speaker may be counted towards a quorum.

Attendance

10. The Clerk and his delegates are responsible for counting the attendance of Members in the meeting and recording their attendance in the Record of Proceedings.
11. A member is deemed to be in attendance if they are:
 - (a) physically present at the place of the meeting; or
 - (b) have joined the meeting at any time during the day's proceeding using the technology approved by the Speaker.

Tabling of documents

12. Members seeking to table documents will provide the documents to be tabled to the Clerks at-the-Table via email to **TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au** in PDF format.

Amendments and Notices of Motion

13. An amendment to any question or notice of motion must be provided to the Clerks-at-the-Table via email to **TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au**

Distribution of material required to be circulated

14. The Clerk or their delegate will distribute documents, including tabled papers and amendments to bills and notices of motion, to Members by email.

Procedure for putting question and holding vote

15. When the Speaker has put a question to the House, Members may indicate their agreement with the "Ayes" or "Noes" by calling "Aye" or "No" and physically raise their hand at the time each proposition is put. The Speaker shall declare whether the "Ayes" or the "Noes" have it.
16. Any Member who has voted against the majority as declared by the Speaker may demand a vote by calling "vote".
17. When a vote is demanded, the bells shall be rung for four minutes and the Speaker shall then call for a vote. However, if there has already been a division in respect of that order of the day or motion, and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker may order the bells to be rung for one minute.

Voting—Party vote unless a conscience required

18. Where a vote is demanded, a party vote is held unless the subject of the vote is to be treated as a conscience vote.
19. 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.

Procedure and rules for a party vote

20. In a party vote:
 - (a) when the bells have finished ringing, the Speaker shall state the question to the House;
 - (b) the Speaker asks the Government Whip and Opposition Whip to cast the party's votes;
 - (c) the Speaker asks the Leader of any Minor Party (or other Member delegated by the Party Leader) that has more than one Member in the Assembly to cast the party's votes;
 - (d) The Speaker then calls in turn members of other minor parties, recognised parties or independents participating in the meeting at that time to cast their votes;
 - (e) the Speaker declares the result to the House; and
 - (f) the result of the vote will be entered in the Record of Proceedings.
21. Votes may only be cast for the Ayes or Noes but Minor Party votes may include both votes for the Ayes and Noes.
22. The total number of votes cast for each party may include proxy votes (see 24.) but must not include:
 - (a) any Members who have been paired;
 - (b) any Member who will not be attending the meeting that day (see 11. above) and who has not notified of a proxy in writing (see 24.);
 - (c) any Member who has been asked to withdraw from the Chamber under Standing Orders 252 or 253A or named under Standing Order 254 for the period they have been ordered to withdraw or are excluded.

Procedure for personal vote

23. In a personal vote:
 - (a) when the bells have finished ringing, the Speaker shall state the question to the House;
 - (b) votes may only be cast for the Ayes or Noes;
 - (c) the Clerk reads the names of each Member by their electorate (alphabetically and one at a time) and the Member shall cast their vote orally for the Ayes or Noes;
 - (d) the Clerk will then report the votes to the Speaker;
 - (e) the Speaker will declare the result to the House; and
 - (f) the result of the vote will be entered in the Record of Proceedings.

Proxy Votes

24. A member (the absent member) may notify the Speaker in writing that the member will be absent from nominated meetings of the Assembly and desires to vote as a member at those meetings—
 - (a) by way of a named proxy who is also a member (the first proxy); or
 - (b) if the first proxy is not present, by another named proxy, who is also a member (the second proxy).
25. The proxy may vote as and for the absent member either without voting in the proxy's own right or in addition to voting in the proxy's own right.
26. Party Whips may include proxy votes by its party members in any party vote (see 22.)

Incorporation of speeches

27. A member in attendance (see 11.) and physically present may, by leave of the House, incorporate their speech or part of their speech in debate on a matter.
28. A member in attendance (see 11.) and using the technology approved by the Speaker may provide the Speaker with their speech in debate on a matter and request that the Speaker on their behalf, by leave of the House, incorporate their speech in debate.
29. A member who is paired may provide the Speaker with their speech in debate on a matter and request that the Speaker on their behalf, by leave of the House, incorporate their speech in debate.
30. The following rules apply to all incorporations:
 - (a) The member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in the time allotted (160 words for every 1 minute of speech time);
 - (b) Speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material;
 - (c) Members must provide the Clerks-at-the-Table (via email to TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au) and Parliamentary Reporting (via email to Hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au) with their speech in electronic form prior to leave being sought to incorporate their speech. Other members will be provided access, on request, to a members' speech prior to the publication of the record of proceedings; and
 - (d) All speeches must be provided to the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker prior to leave being sought for incorporation. Speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend Standing Orders in any way, such as by containing personal reflections or imputations.