




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.37 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, for this week's sitting, so much of sessional orders 1 and 2 and Special Procedures for Transacting Business in Exceptional Circumstances be suspended to:

1. provide that the automatic adjournment on Tuesday and Wednesday evening commences at 9.30 pm; and
2. enable the following procedure for a personal vote held in this sitting week to apply:

Procedure for personal vote

In a personal vote:

- (a) when the bells have finished ringing, the Speaker shall state the question to the House;
- (b) to cast their votes, members must be in their allocated places in the chamber.
- (c) members may indicate their agreement with the ayes by standing in their place.
- (d) members may indicate their agreement with the noes by sitting in their place.
- (e) the Speaker shall appoint two tellers from each side. If two tellers cannot be found for one side, the Speaker must immediately declare the resolution of the House.
- (f) the tellers shall count the members voting and record the vote of each member present on the division sheets.
- (g) a member may not change their vote once the tellers have been appointed.
- (h) the tellers shall report the numbers to the Speaker.
- (i) the Speaker shall announce the result of the division to the House.
- (j) in case of confusion or error concerning the numbers reported, unless it can be otherwise corrected, the House shall proceed to another division on the question.
- (k) the result of the vote will be recorded in the *Record of Proceedings*.

In speaking to this motion, the extension to the sitting hours I just flagged in the business motion is to allow all members to have the opportunity to speak in this debate. It is important that we provide those additional sitting hours. I believe that this is reasonable. We have maintained the automatic adjournment for members to still make adjournment statements this week as well.

On the procedural vote, this is a conscience vote. As a conscience vote, we need to structure the vote in a way different from what we have been practising with the party vote under the standing orders in relation to COVID. We have considered this in light of COVID, whether people should be crossing the chamber and not taking individual seats. Consequently, we believe this is a better resolution to ensure that all conscience votes are accounted for and that the count can go smoothly in relation to procedures and still keeping all members of this House safe.