



Speech By  
**Hon. Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Respect to the Chair; Members Seeking the Call**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 3 April this year I had cause to make a statement reminding members about respecting the authority of the chair. The Speaker's authority—and that includes the authority of all Deputy Speakers—is derived from the House itself. All are ultimately responsible to the House. It is the duty of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers to maintain order and uphold the rules of the House. It is the duty of each member to respect the decisions of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers. As I stated in April, order quickly dissolves if members believe that they always know better and start disrespecting the authority of the chair.

In recent sitting days there have been some incidents in the House regarding members obtaining the call. I would like to clarify the rules around members seeking the call. Standing order 247(1) provides that a member wishing to speak 'shall rise and address the Speaker'. Accordingly, members seeking the call should rise to their feet and seek the attention of the chair. There have also been rulings by Speaker Reynolds and Speaker Simpson on this matter.

Standing order 247(2) provides that the Speaker 'shall call upon the member who, in the Speaker's opinion, rose first'. On 10 November 2016 Speaker Wellington referred to a host of previous rulings on this point, including Speaker Simpson's on 5 June 2012 at pages 441 and 443 and on 20 August 2013. As Speaker Simpson stated in the latter ruling, standing order 247(2) makes it clear that—

The decision as to who has the call is at the complete discretion of the chair and can only be challenged immediately in accordance with standing order 247(3) ...

Speaker Wellington noted that this is a perfectly sensible procedure because it provides an effective remedy and avoids relying on later recollections by members as to who jumped or who did not jump and seek the call. Speaker Wellington noted that speaking lists are produced by the whips, but these lists are only a guide and members must jump and seek the call in accordance with standing order 247(1).

Like Speaker Wellington, I note that the speaking lists for bills are notoriously unreliable, with members often not turning up for the debate in the order of the lists or simply dropping off the lists. That being said, I have instructed the temporary chairs that if two members appear to have jumped and sought the call at essentially the same time and one of those members is next on the speaking list they should prefer the member who is next on the list.

On 14 October 2025, during the debate of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill, after the member for Ferny Grove finished his speech, the member for Gregory and the member for Logan essentially sought the call at the same time. The Deputy Speaker at the time gave the call to the member for Gregory, who was next on the list. The member for Logan upon not receiving the call responded by loudly and repeatedly banging on the lectern in front of him, like a drum roll. I have reviewed the overwatch footage of this incident and I find that the member for Logan's behaviour was designed to disrupt the House and was grossly disorderly.

The Deputy Speaker at the time cautioned the member for Logan for his theatrics. The member for Logan was on a warning at the time, and in my view the Deputy Speaker would have been well within his rights to order the member for Logan to withdraw from the chamber for up to one hour under standing order 253A. Nonetheless, I now request the member for Logan to apologise to the House for his disorderly behaviour which I do not want repeated by any member.