



# Standing Orders and Procedure Committee

REPORT 2/57 – OCTOBER 2019

MODERNISATION AND REFORM OF PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES: EPETITIONS

INTERIM REPORT

REPORTS  
COMMITTEES

5

LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

### Modernisation and reform of practices and procedures: ePetitions

Interim report 2/57 – October 2019

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328.944 (DDC22)The motto of the coat of arms for the state of New South Wales is “Orta recens quam pura nites”. It is written in Latin and means “newly risen, how brightly you shine”.

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# Membership

**CHAIR** The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP

**MEMBERS** The Hon. Andrew Constance MP  
Ms Steph Cooke MP  
Mr Mark Coure MP  
Mr Adam Crouch MP  
Mr Michael Daley MP  
Mr Lee Evans MP  
Mr Nick Lalich MP (9 May 2019 – 30 July 2019)  
Mr Paul Lynch MP (9 May 2019 – 30 July 2019)  
Mr Ryan Park MP (from 30 July 2019)  
Mr Greg Piper MP  
Ms Anna Watson MP (from 30 July 2019)  
The Hon. Leslie Williams MP

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## Terms of reference

The Standing Orders and Procedure Committee has been appointed to inquire into, and report on any matter relating to the standing orders or procedures of the House and its committees.

## Speaker's foreword

In the Committee's interim report tabled in August 2019, we recommended a significant number of changes to the way in which the Assembly conducts its business. After a few short months the Assembly has seen the benefit of those changes. Robust public interest debates and petition debates have seen the Assembly exploring issues of public interest and contesting ideas vigorously. Changes to make sitting days start earlier and changes to increase opportunities for the consideration of non-Government business have also been improvements, and bring the operation of the House into line with community expectations.

In the foreword of the August report I promised more reforms. While we continue to work with all stakeholders to carefully consider what changes will improve Question Time, this interim report sets out a proposed process for the Assembly to receive ePetitions. The recommended process will take time to implement properly and will not be introduced until the infrastructure has been developed to properly support it, but it will ensure the community can engage directly with the NSW Parliament in the way in which we engage with many other facets of life – digitally.

The proposed process will see New South Wales residents able to create and 'sign' a petition through the Assembly's website. People creating petitions will need to identify a Member of the Legislative Assembly to agree to present the petition in the Assembly, and will need the support of at least five other people before it can be open to the public. These steps are intended to make sure that the petitions process is used for serious and significant issues.

In developing this process, the Committee has considered ePetitions processes around the world. We are confident that the proposed process will meet community expectations and continue the evolution of parliamentary democracy in Australia's first and oldest Parliament.

I thank members of the Committee from all parties for their continued collaborative approach to these reforms.



**The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP**

Chair

# Recommendation

## **RECOMMENDATION 1**

That the House adopt the proposed process for accepting ePetitions and the Department of the Legislative Assembly receive the funding required to implement and administer the process.



## Chapter One – ePetitions

- 1.1 Petitions are an important mechanism for members of the community to raise issues directly with the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. The Standing and Sessional Orders do not currently permit the use of petitions other than paper petitions.
- 1.2 The Committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly change the Standing and Sessional Orders to permit ePetitions at such time as the Parliament's IT infrastructure has been modified to accommodate the proposed process for receiving ePetitions.
- 1.3 In proposing these changes, the Committee has reviewed options from a range of Australian and international parliaments, including the Australian House of Representatives, the United Kingdom House of Commons, the Canadian House of Commons, and the Queensland Legislative Assembly.
- 1.4 The elements of the proposed process for receiving ePetitions will be:
- (a) Petitioners lodge directly online through the Parliament's website.
  - (b) A Member must agree to present the petition and at least five people must agree to support the petition before it is publicly listed for signature.
  - (c) The ePetition remains open for signatures for a set period of time and closes automatically.
  - (d) The Member that agreed to present the petition is automatically the 'presenting' Member.
- 1.5 The Committee notes that there will be resource implications for the Parliament and the Department of the Legislative Assembly if ePetitions are to be received.
- 1.6 A more detailed explanation of the stages of the proposed process for receiving an ePetition can be found at Appendix One.

## Appendix One – Proposed ePetitions process

The following process is indicative only and may change during the design and implementation phase.

Stage	Description	Notes
1	<p>Petitioner creates an account on the Parliament's website, via the Legislative Assembly's petitions page, and provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Name</li> <li>- Physical address</li> <li>- Email address</li> <li>- Phone number</li> </ul> <p>The petitioner accepts the terms and conditions of the site, including an acknowledgement of the privacy notice.</p> <p>The petitioner confirms that they are a resident of NSW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These details are required to permit Table Office contact in case the petition needs changes to meet the rules for petitions. Only the petitioner's name would be listed on the website once the ePetition is accepted.</li> </ul>
2	<p>The petitioner creates a petition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressed to the Legislative Assembly</li> <li>- Limit of 250 words for subject of petition with no links or images</li> <li>- Not in the same form as a current ePetition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandatory address to ensure compliance with the form required for petitions – ‘To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly’.</li> <li>- Paper petitions can be duplicated but ePetitions will all be visible so shouldn't have duplicates.</li> </ul>
3	<p>The petitioner identifies five to ten people who will potentially support the petition and provides their email addresses.</p> <p>The petitioner identifies one Member of the Legislative Assembly who they wish to ‘present’ the petition.</p> <p>The petitioner selects the duration for the ePetition to be open for signature, once authorised, and listed on site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- one week</li> <li>- four weeks</li> <li>- twelve weeks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The petitioner is advised that they should seek people's permission before identifying them as supporters of the ePetition.</li> <li>- If the ePetition is approved, the identified people will be the first signatories if they support the ePetition.</li> <li>- This step is intended to reduce the incidence of frivolous ePetitions.</li> <li>- For individuals wanting to petition, the paper option will still only require one petitioner.</li> </ul>

4	<p>The Legislative Assembly Table Office reviews the ePetition to ensure it meets form requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The text of the ePetition is assessed against Standing and Sessional Order requirements.</li> <li>- This process may involve discussion with petitioner before being finalised.</li> </ul>
5	<p>Once the Table Office has reviewed the ePetition, emails are automatically sent to the identified potential supporters seeking their support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The email seeking confirmation of support for the ePetition will contain contact details for the Table Office if there are questions, and a link to the ePetition text.</li> </ul>
6	<p>Once at least five people have confirmed they support the petition, an email is automatically sent to the identified Member for their confirmation that they are prepared to 'present' the ePetition once it has closed for signatures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The email to the Member will contain a link to the ePetition text and email/phone contact details for the petitioner.</li> <li>- The Member agrees to present the petition, refuses, or doesn't respond.</li> <li>- If the Member refuses or doesn't respond (within 14 days) then petitioner is advised and can identify another Member (up to five times).</li> </ul>
7	<p>The ePetition is made public on the Legislative Assembly petitions webpage and is open for the specified time. Signatories must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name</li> <li>- email address</li> <li>- confirmation that they are a resident of NSW (tick box only)</li> <li>- confirmation that they accept terms and conditions including acknowledging the privacy statement.</li> </ul> <p>Only the name of the ePetition creator and the number of signatories will be displayed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Email addresses will be used to inform signatories of date of 'presentation' and date of debate (if the number of signatories is high enough). Signatories can opt out of this.</li> <li>- The webpage will be geo-blocked – only accessible from Australia – and signatories must tick a box to assert they are NSW residents.</li> </ul>
8	<p>Once closed, the ePetition is automatically listed for presentation on the next Legislative Assembly sitting day (as for paper petitions) and sent to the relevant Minister for information/response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Listed for presentation in the House.</li> <li>- Email to the petitioner and all signatories advising that the ePetition has been tabled.</li> </ul>

	<p>If the signature threshold of 20,000 is reached, the ePetition is listed on the Business Paper for a 'take note' debate.</p>	
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## Appendix Two – Extracts from Minutes

### **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 1 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

4.30 pm, Thursday 9 May 2019  
Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

#### **Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Ms Steph Cooke MP  
Mr Nick Lulich MP  
Mr Greg Piper MP  
Mr Paul Lynch MP  
Mr Adam Crouch MP  
Mr Mark Coure MP  
Mr Lee Evans MP  
The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

#### **Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table  
Mr Jonathan Elliott, Director – Table and Chamber Services  
Mr Simon Johnston, Director – Procedural Research and Protocol

The Chair opened the meeting at 4.35 pm.

#### **1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting.**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was agreed that Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills and Mr Paul Blanch be authorised to attend the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Mr Michael Daley MP, Hon. Leslie Williams MP

#### **3. Consideration of correspondence from the Premier received 6 May 2019**

The Chair spoke to the correspondence, noting it had been previously circulated. Discussion ensued. The Committee agreed to undertake a review of the practices and procedures of the Legislative Assembly that would include the issues raised in the correspondence from the Premier and allow consideration of the modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees.

##### **I. Review process**

The Committee agreed that correspondence be sent to all Legislative Assembly members advising them of the current inquiry and inviting them to contribute

their suggestions for measures to modernise and improve the function and efficiency of the Legislative Assembly, including through a review of the Standing and Sessional Orders, the routine of business and the role of committees.

The correspondence will request that suggestions be provided to a member of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, with Committee members collating suggestions received and providing them to the secretariat of the Committee by Wednesday 22 May 2019 for consideration at a meeting on Monday 27 May 2019.

Following the meeting on Monday 27 May 2019, items will be identified for the development of specific proposals to be considered at a subsequent meeting, with the intention of reporting to the House on or before 30 June 2019.

#### **4. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4.50 pm.

#### **5. Next meeting**

Monday 27 May, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Speaker's Dining Room.

### **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 2 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

10.30 am, Monday 27 May 2019

Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

#### **Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Ms Steph Cooke MP

Mr Greg Piper MP

Mr Paul Lynch MP

Mr Mark Coure MP

Mr Lee Evans MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Adam Crouch MP (via teleconference)

Mrs Leslie Williams MP (via teleconference)

#### **Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk

Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table

Mr Jonathan Elliott, Director – Table and Chamber Services

Mr Simon Johnston, Director – Procedural Research and Protocol

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.30 am.

#### **1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting.**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mr Constance, that Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills, Ms Georgia Luk and Ms Rebecca Cartwright be authorised to attend the meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

Mr Nick Lalich MP.

## **3. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee noted the submissions provided:

1. Speaker
2. Leader of the House
3. Shadow Leader of the House
4. Mr Greg Piper
5. Mrs Williams/Ms Felicity Wilson

The Committee considered the following issues and agreed to consider options for changes at its next meeting:

1. Changes to the routine of business
2. Changes to Question Time
3. Changes to Community Recognition Statements
4. Changes to voting processes
5. Changes to petitions (e-petitions)
6. Committees
7. Consideration of legislation
8. Administrative arrangements
9. Ethics training for Members

The Committee agreed that at its next meeting the following issues not discussed at this meeting would be considered:

1. Changes to the Motion Accorded Priority, Matter of Public Importance and Re-ordering of General Business

## **4. Review of Sessional Orders**

Speaker noted that the overall review of the sessional orders would be considered at a later date.

## **5. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12.30pm.

## **6. Next meeting**

Wednesday 5 June 9am to 10am, Speaker's Dining Room.

**Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 3  
(57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

9.00 am, Wednesday 5 June 2019

McKell Room, Parliament House

**Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mr Greg Piper MP

Mr Paul Lynch MP

Mr Mark Coure MP

Mr Lee Evans MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Adam Crouch MP

Mrs Leslie Williams MP

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk

Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.03 am.

**1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting.**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Crouch, seconded Mr Evans, that Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills, Mr Paul Blanch and Ms Rebecca Cartwright be authorised to attend the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Ms Steph Cooke MP and Mr Nick Lalich MP.

**3. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the following matters and discussed options for reform:

- Routine of business
- Question Time
- Motion Accorded Priority
- Community Recognition Statements
- Voting processes
- Petitions
- Committees
- Private Members' Bills
- Administrative changes
- Ethics training.



The Committee agreed to further consider these matters at the next meeting.

**4. Review of Sessional Orders**

Speaker noted that the overall review of the sessional orders would be considered at a later date.

**5. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 10.00 am.

**6. Next meeting**

Wednesday 12 June 11am to 12pm.

**Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 4 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

11.00 am, Wednesday 12 June 2019

Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

**Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mr Greg Piper MP

Mr Paul Lynch MP

Mr Lee Evans MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Adam Crouch MP (via teleconference)

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk

Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table

Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.02 am.

**1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting.**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Crouch, seconded Mr Evans, that:

- Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills, Ms Ellie Lang, Ms Georgia Luk, and Ms Rebecca Cartwright be authorised to attend the meeting
- a representative of the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the Leader of the House, the Office of the Government Whip be authorised to attend any future meeting of the Committee for the duration of the current inquiry.

**2. Apologies**

Ms Steph Cooke MP, Mr Mark Coure MP, Mrs Leslie Williams MP, Mr Nick Lulich MP.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Constance, seconded Mr Piper, that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

### **4. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the following matters and discussed options for reform:

- Routine of business, including time limits for items of business
- Question Time
- Motion Accorded Priority/Matter of Public Importance/Re-ordering of General Business Notices of Motions
- E-petitions
- Proxy voting.

The Committee agreed to further consider these matters at the next meeting.

After discussion, the Speaker noted his intention to advise the House after the winter break that during divisions the chamber seating arrangements would be changed such that all members seated to the left of the Speaker are counted for the Noes; members seated to the right counted for the Ayes.

### **5. Response to correspondence from the Premier**

The Committee discussed the response to the Premier's correspondence, agreeing that the Committee would write to the Premier outlining the proposed reforms by 30 June 2019, with a final report containing detail required for the implementation of the reforms to be tabled at a later date.

### **6. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12.10 pm.

### **7. Next meeting**

Wednesday 19 June 9.30 -10.00 am.

## **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 5 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

9.30 am, Wednesday 19 June 2019

McKell Room, Parliament House

### **Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mr Greg Piper MP

Mr Paul Lynch MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Adam Crouch MP

Ms Steph Cooke MP

Mrs Leslie Williams MP

Mr Lee Evans MP  
Mr Nick Lalich MP

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table  
Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol

**Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Ellie Laing, Office of the Speaker  
Angus McKenzie-Wills, Office of the Leader of the House  
Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.32 am.

**1. Apologies**

Mr Mark Coure MP

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mr Crouch, that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded Mr Piper, that the minutes of meetings 1 and 2 be adopted.

**3. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the following matters and discussed options for reform:

- Routine of business, including time limits for items of business
- Question Time
  - Paper circulated by the Clerk for review
  - Comments to Clerk by end of week for consideration at next meeting.
- Petitions
- Committees

The Committee agreed to further consider these matters at the next meeting.

**4. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 10.00 am.

**5. Next meeting**

Wednesday 26 June, 2.15-3pm in the Speaker's Dining Room.

**Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 6 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

2.15 pm, Wednesday 26 June 2019  
Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

**Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)  
Mr Greg Piper MP  
Mr Paul Lynch MP  
The Hon. Andrew Constance MP  
Mr Michael Daley MP (via teleconference)  
Ms Steph Cooke MP (via teleconference)  
Mr Nick Lalich MP  
Mr Mark Coure MP  
Mr Lee Evans MP

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table  
Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol  
Mr Jonathan Elliott, Director, Table

**Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Ellie Laing and Paul Blanch, Office of the Speaker  
Angus McKenzie-Wills, Office of the Leader of the House  
Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip

The Chair opened the meeting at 2.20 pm.

**1. Apologies**

Mrs Leslie Williams MP, Mr Adam Crouch MP

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mr Lalich, that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

**3. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the comments provided by members on the proposed public question (previously circulated). The following matters and options for reform were discussed:

- Petitions
- Committees
- Legislation (non-Government)
- Question Time – the public question
- Simplification of language
- Voting procedures
- Community recognition statements

The Committee agreed to consider proposed changes to the Standing and Sessional Orders required to give effect to the issues identified during discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on a number of other proposed areas of reform, as raised by the Speaker, including:

- A modest allowance for members transitioning out of Parliament, which had unanimous support, and related jurisdictional issues for the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal
- Ethics awareness and information for members
- Parliamentary compliance officer for low level complaints and entitlements issues
- The publication by the Independent Commission Against Corruption of statements in relation to adverse findings.

#### **4. Progress reporting**

The Committee reviewed draft correspondence from the Chair to the Premier (circulated at 1.23pm on 26 June 2019). The Committee agreed that the Speaker would respond to the Premier's correspondence of 9 May 2019 providing a summary of proposed reforms for comment, as per the attached table.

#### **5. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 3.23 pm.

#### **6. Next meeting**

Next meeting Wednesday 24 July at 10am, Speaker's Dining Room.

#### **Unconfirmed Meeting No. 7 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

10.00am, Wednesday 24 July 2019

Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

#### **Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mr Greg Piper MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP (via teleconference)

Ms Steph Cooke MP (via teleconference)

Mr Lee Evans MP

Mr Adam Crouch MP (via teleconference)

#### **Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk

Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table

Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol

Mr Jonathan Elliott, Director, Table

#### **Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Ellie Laing and Paul Blanch, Office of the Speaker

Angus McKenzie-Wills, Office of the Leader of the House

Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip

#### **Other attendees (by resolution of the Committee)**

Mr Ryan Park MP, Leader of Opposition Business

Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.00am.

**1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting.**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Evans, seconded Mr Crouch, that Mr Ryan Park MP and Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, be authorised to attend the meeting.

The Speaker noted that Mr Ryan Park MP and Ms Anna Watson MP would be replacing Mr Paul Lynch MP and Mr Nick Lalich MP on the Committee as a consequence of their election as Leader of Opposition Business and Opposition Whip respectively, with the change in membership to be formalised by the House.

**2. Apologies**

Mrs Leslie Williams MP, Mr Michael Daley MP, Mr Nick Lalich MP, Mr Paul Lynch MP and Mr Mark Coure MP.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mr Evans, that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

**4. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Speaker advised the Committee that no response had yet been received from the Premier in relation to the correspondence sent following the previous meeting.

Meeting interrupted at approximately 10.20am by internal alarm. Committee agreed to reconvene at a later date.

**5. Next meeting**

Next meeting Wednesday 31 July at 4.30pm, Speaker's Dining Room.

**Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 8 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

4.40pm, Wednesday 31 July 2019

Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House

**Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mrs Leslie Williams MP

Mr Greg Piper MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

Mr Lee Evans MP

Mr Adam Crouch MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Ryan Park MP  
Ms Anna Watson MP  
Mr Mark Coure MP

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table  
Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol  
Mr Jonathan Elliott, Director, Table

**Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Mr Paul Blanch, Office of the Speaker  
Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills, Office of the Leader of the House  
Ms Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip

**Other attendees (by resolution of the Committee)**

Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition  
Ms Ellie Laing, Office of the Speaker

The Chair opened the meeting at 4.40pm.

**1. Authorisation for other persons to attend the meeting.**

Pursuant to Standing Order 295(1) it was agreed, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mrs Williams, that Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, and an additional member of the Speaker's staff, be authorised to attend the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Ms Steph Cooke MP.

**3. Committee membership**

The Speaker reported changes in membership of the Committee as recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings, no. 13 Tuesday 30 July 2019, entry 25*.

Mr Ryan Park MP and Ms Anna Watson MP appointed to serve on the Committee in place of Mr Paul Lynch MP and Mr Nick Lalich MP, discharged.

**4. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the following matters:

- Changes to Question Time
- Voting procedures
- Petitions
- Public interest debate
- Community recognition statements
- Changes to the routine of business
- Committee reports and responses

The Chair outlined a staged approach to reform, with Stage 1 reforms being put to the House on Thursday 1 August 2019 in an interim report, with a view to implementation the following sitting week.

In relation to the public interest debate, Mr Daley moved, seconded Ms Watson, that the public interest debate be held immediately after Question Time and not at 5pm as proposed.

Discussion ensued, question put.

The Committee divided.

Mr O'Dea was in the Chair and indicated that he would not be voting unless required to exercise his casting vote.

Ayes: Mr Daley, Ms Watson, Mr Piper

Noes: Mr Evans, Mr Coure, Mr Constance, Mrs Williams

Question resolved in the negative.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Constance, seconded Mr Daley, that the Committee's interim report proposing Stage 1 changes to the standing and sessional orders be tabled in the House on 1 August 2019.

The Committee agreed that a table comprising proposed sessional orders would be circulated to members for comment, and provided that there be no disagreement, the table to be included in the interim report, with the option for the Committee to reconvene if any concerns or issues were raised.

The Committee agreed that the Chair and committee staff be permitted to correct consequential, stylistic, typographical and grammatical errors.

The Leader of the House indicated his intention to move, on Thursday 1 August 2019, for the adoption by the House of the Stage 1 reforms to sessional orders.

## **5. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 5:40pm.

## **6. Next meeting**

Next meeting 6pm Tuesday 20 August 2019, Speaker's Dining Room.

## **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 9 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

6.02pm, Tuesday 20 August 2019

Speaker's Dining Room, Parliament House



**Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)  
Mrs Leslie Williams MP (left at 6.30pm)  
Mr Greg Piper MP (left at 6.50pm)  
The Hon. Andrew Constance MP  
Mr Lee Evans MP  
Mr Adam Crouch MP  
Mr Michael Daley MP  
Mr Ryan Park MP  
Ms Anna Watson MP  
Mr Mark Coure MP

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol

**Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Mr Paul Blanch, Office of the Speaker  
Ms Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip  
Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.02pm.

**1. Apologies**

Ms Steph Cooke MP

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Constance, seconded Mrs Williams, that the minutes of meetings 7 and 8 be adopted.

**3. Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence previously circulated:

- i. Letter from the Premier to the Speaker dated 7 August 2019
- ii. Letter to the Premier from the Speaker dated 14 August 2019

The Speaker circulated correspondence received 20 August 2019 from the Premier responding to the Presiding Officers letter of 28 June 2019.

Discussion ensued.

**4. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee noted the Interim Report tabled 1 August 2019, a briefing paper on the e-petitions process and a memorandum from the Clerk circulated to the Committee on 19 August 2019 relating to consideration of private Members' bills.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- Stage One reforms to the Standing and Sessional Orders adopted by the House 1 August 2019
- The operation of the public interest debate
- Question Time reforms
  - o Ministerial statements and Questions
  - o The public question
- E-petitions
  - o Threshold for debate in House confirmed at 20,000 signatories
  - o Process in circulated briefing paper considered and agreed
- Private Members Bills
  - o Committee agreed that feedback on the memorandum from the Clerk relating to consideration of private Members' bills be provided to the Clerk for discussion at the Committee's next meeting.
- Remuneration of officeholders
  - o Committee agreed that the remuneration of officeholders would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

## **5. General Business**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 6:55pm.

## **6. Next meeting**

Next meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6pm, McKell Room.

## **Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 10 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

6.03pm, Tuesday 17 September 2019  
McKell Room, Parliament House

### **Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)  
Mrs Leslie Williams MP  
Mr Greg Piper MP  
The Hon. Andrew Constance MP  
Mr Lee Evans MP  
Mr Adam Crouch MP  
Mr Michael Daley MP  
Mr Ryan Park MP  
Mr Mark Coure MP

### **Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk  
Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table  
Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol

### **Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Mr Paul Blanch, Office of the Speaker

Ms Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip  
Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition  
Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills, Office of the Leader of the Government

**Other attendees (by resolution of the Committee)**

Ms Tamara Smith, MP

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.03pm.

**1. Apologies**

Ms Steph Cooke MP and Ms Anna Watson MP.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Evans, seconded Mr Park, that the minutes of meeting 9 be adopted.

**3. Resolution for attendance of observers**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mr Daley, that Ms Tamara Smith MP be permitted to attend the meeting.

**4. 2020 Citizens Assembly – Proposal**

The Speaker circulated a paper titled 'Public engagement on modernisation and reform of the Assembly'.

Mr Daley, Ms Smith and Mr Crouch spoke in support of the proposal contained in the paper. The Clerk provided additional comments.

Discussion ensued.

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Daley, seconded Mr Crouch, that the Committee support the proposal in-principle.

(Ms Smith left the meeting).

**5. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the following matters:

Stage Two changes:

- Private Members Bills
- E-petitions
- Question Time reforms

These issues and issues contained in previous correspondence to the Premier will be discussed at a meeting on 8 October between the Leader of the House, the Whips, the President of the Legislative Council, the Speaker and the Premier. The Speaker will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

## 6. Remuneration of officeholders

Mr Park spoke in relation to the remuneration of officeholders. Mr Park to provide the Committee with a note explaining the issue in more detail.

(Mr Coure and Mr Evans left the meeting)

## 7. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence previously circulated:

Letter from Mr Roy Butler MP to the Speaker dated 10 July 2019

(Mr Constance left the meeting)

Discussion ensued. Committee agreed that the Committee would respond to Mr Butler.

## 8. Speaking times for Consideration in Detail of Private Members' bills

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Kevin Conolly MP proposing amendment to the speaking times for Consideration in Detail of Private Members' bills.

Clerks to provide more information at the next meeting to address the issue.

## 9. General Business

Mr Park raised the following issues for consideration:

- i. Timing of Community Recognition Statements
- ii. Broadcast of chamber and camera views available.

Discussion ensued.

## 10. Next meeting

Tuesday 15 October at 4.00pm

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 7.01pm.

### **Unconfirmed Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee Meeting No. 11 (57<sup>th</sup> Parliament)**

4.05pm, Tuesday 15 October 2019

McKell Room, Parliament House

#### **Members present:**

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP, Speaker (Chair)

Mrs Leslie Williams MP

Mr Greg Piper MP

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP

Mr Lee Evans MP

Mr Michael Daley MP

Mr Ryan Park MP

Ms Anna Watson MP

**Officers in attendance:**

Ms Helen Minnican, Clerk

Ms Carly Maxwell, Clerk-Assistant, Table

Mr Simon Johnston, Director, Procedural Research and Protocol

Mr Jonathan Elliott, Director, Table and Chamber Services

**Other attendees (by previous resolution of the Committee)**

Mr Paul Blanch, Office of the Speaker

Ms Rebecca Cartwright, Office of the Government Whip

Mr James Evans, Office of the Leader of the Opposition

Mr Mitch Wright, Office of the Leader of the Opposition

Mr Angus McKenzie-Wills, Office of the Leader of the Government

The Chair opened the meeting at 4.05pm.

**1. Apologies**

Mr Mark Coure MP, Ms Steph Cooke MP, Mr Adam Crouch MP

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed, on the motion of Mr Evans, seconded Mr Daley, that the minutes of meeting 10 be adopted.

**3. Resolution for attendance of observers**

The Committee noted that Mr Mitch Wright attended the meeting as the replacement for Mr James Evans, representative of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

**4. Inquiry – Modernisation and reform of Legislative Assembly practices and procedures, and the operation of the House and its committees**

The Committee considered the following matters:

Stage Two changes:

- Private Members' Bills
- Question Time reforms

The Speaker reported back to the Committee on a meeting held with the Leader of the House and the Premier on 8 October 2019 in relation to the Stage Two changes.

*Discussion ensued.*

The Committee agreed that the issue of Private Members' Bills would be revisited at the next meeting of the Committee, and issues associated with Question Time reforms would be revisited in early December.

- ePetitions

The Committee considered the draft interim report titled 'Modernisation and reform of practices and procedures: ePetitions'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Piper, seconded Mr Daley and Mrs Williams, that the Committee's interim report be tabled in the House.

The Committee agreed that the Chair and committee staff be permitted to correct consequential, stylistic, typographical and grammatical errors.

**5. Speaking times for Consideration in Detail of Private Members' Bills**

The Committee agreed that the issue of speaking times on Private Members' Bills be further considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

**6. Remuneration of officeholders**

Mr Park advised the Committee that he was seeking additional feedback from colleagues and would provide a briefing note on the issue once that process had concluded.

**7. Next meeting**

Tuesday 22 October, 4pm

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4.25pm