



Procedure and Privileges Committee

Enhancing the Legislative Assembly's Procedures

Report No. 7
September 2018

Legislative Assembly
Parliament of Western Australia

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Procedure and Privileges Committee

Enhancing the Legislative Assembly's Procedures

Report No. 7

Presented by

Ms Lisa Baker, MLA

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 20 September 2018

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 19

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 19 be amended by deleting ‘2.00 p.m.’ and substituting ‘12 noon’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Days and times of meeting

19. Unless otherwise ordered, the Assembly will meet for business on each Tuesday at 12 noon, each Wednesday at 12 noon and each Thursday at 9.00 a.m.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 40

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 40 be amended by inserting the following sentence at the end of the Standing Order: ‘A stranger does not include a member’s baby being fed by that member’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Admittance of members of the Council and strangers to the Chamber

40. Only the Speaker may admit strangers onto the floor of the Chamber. When a division is called, strangers will withdraw. Members of the Council will be admitted to the Chamber in the area behind the Chair and may remain there during divisions. A stranger does not include a member’s baby being fed by that member.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 101

1. That as a trial for 2019, the section on ‘Motions’ in Standing Order 101 be amended by:

(a) deleting ‘60’ as the allocated time for the ‘Mover’, the ‘Premier or one member deputed’ and the ‘Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed’ and substituting ‘45’; and

(b) deleting ‘10’ under the extension subsection and substituting ‘5’;
and

2. That as a trial for 2019, the section on ‘Other Bills’ in Standing Order 101 be amended by:

(a) deleting ‘60’ as the allocated time for the ‘Mover’, the ‘Premier or one member deputed’ and the ‘Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed’ and substituting ‘45’; and

(b) deleting ‘10’ under the extension subsection and substituting ‘5’;
and

3. That as a trial for 2019, the section on ‘Third reading’ under ‘Other Bills’ in Standing Order 101 be amended by:

(a) deleting the words of the section and substituting the following:

Third reading –

Mover 30minutes

Premier or one member deputed †30 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #30 minutes

Any other member 15 minutes

Mover in reply 30 minutes

† If not a Government bill

If not an Opposition bill

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Time limits on speeches

101. A member may speak for the specified period on the following subjects —

...

Motions

Mover 45 minutes

Premier or one member deputed †45 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #45 minutes

Any other member *20 minutes

On any amendment, each member 20 minutes

Mover in reply 45 minutes

† If not a Government motion

If not an Opposition motion

* If the member speaking so requests during or immediately upon the expiry of a speech, the time for the speech will be extended by a further 5 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under Standing Order 102.

...

Other Bills

Second reading —

Mover 45 minutes

Premier or one member deputed †45 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #45 minutes

Any other member *20 minutes

Mover in reply 45 minutes

† If not a Government bill

If not an Opposition bill

* If the member speaking so requests during or immediately upon the expiry of a speech, the time for the speech will be extended by a further 5 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under Standing Order 102.

Third reading —

Mover 30minutes

Premier or one member deputed †30 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #30 minutes

Any other member 15 minutes

Mover in reply 30 minutes

† If not a Government bill

If not an Opposition bill

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 146

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 146 be amended by deleting ‘Four’ and substituting ‘Five’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Grievances

146. At a time determined by the Speaker on each Thursday when the Address in Reply no longer has priority, the Speaker will call for grievances. Five members may speak on grievances and no member may speak more than once. A Minister or a member deputed will have the right to reply to each of the grievances.

Standing Order 101

That as a trial for 2019, SO 101 be amended by deleting ‘7’ and substituting ‘6’ after the section ‘Grievance debate (S.O. 146)’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Time limits on speeches

101. A member may speak for the specified period on the following subjects –

...

Grievance debate (S.O. 146)

Each member including a Minister or a member deputed to reply 6 minutes

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 147

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 147 be amended by deleting ‘Once’ and substituting ‘Twice’, by deleting ‘six’ and substituting ‘five’, and by deleting ‘90 seconds’ and substituting ‘two minutes’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Members’ statements

147. Twice in each sitting week, at a time decided by the Speaker, the Speaker will call for statements by members, and up to five members, other than a Minister, may make a statement not exceeding two minutes each.

Standing Order 101

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 101 be amended by deleting ‘90 seconds’ and substituting ‘2 minutes’ after the section ‘Members’ statements (S.O. 147)’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Time limits on speeches

101. A member may speak for the specified period on the following subjects –

...

Members’ statements (S.O. 147)

Member 2 minutes

Maximum of 10 members.

Enhancing the Legislative Assembly's Procedures

Background

The Procedure and Privileges Committee (the Committee) of the 40th Parliament has been considering a range of initiatives to improve the functioning of the Legislative Assembly. Some of these initiatives are geared towards providing enhanced opportunities for private members and the public to raise matters of concern regarding their electorates or to question Government policy and administration; other initiatives aim at streamlining procedures in the Chamber to make proceedings more efficient. And, finally, and critically, some initiatives seek to make the Chamber more inclusive and family-friendly as a workplace.

Approach by the Committee

The Committee compiled a survey which listed the proposals the Committee had under consideration and sought members' feedback to these proposals. The survey form also invited members to provide further suggestions and comments. The survey form appears at Appendix 1.

The survey was distributed in the Chamber on 29 November 2017 with the Speaker making a statement to the House encouraging members to take the time to complete it. The survey received a strong response with 50 members (85 per cent) completing and returning the form. A number of members contributed thoughtful suggestions which the Committee has decided to incorporate into the recommendations in this report. These member suggestions will be discussed later in this report. A table summarising the survey results appears at Appendix 2.

Survey Results

The survey was composed of nine questions—with some questions containing sub-questions and/or different options for members to rate. As can be seen by the summary of results, seven questions (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) received strong 'Yes' responses—with approximately two-thirds of the responding members supporting the proposed change. Question 3, which proposed introducing a second Matter of Public Interest debate during Private Members' Business was strongly rejected. Question 9, which proposed that any member may read a speech, was almost evenly tied at 24 'Yes' responses and 23 'No' responses.

The Committee has decided to recommend a trial of those proposals which received overwhelming 'Yes' responses from members. However, given there are significant IT and staffing issues involved with introducing e-petitions and implementing more comprehensive petition follow-up, the Committee has decided to deal with the petition proposals—Questions 5 and 6—in a subsequent report. This report will now briefly

discuss those changes to the Standing Orders which the Committee recommends be trialled during the 2019 parliamentary sitting year.

Proposed Changes

Family-friendly hours

Question 1 of the survey proposed:

Sitting Tuesdays to commence at 12 noon and conclude at 7.00 pm with no break for dinner. Government to retain ability to have the House sit longer if required.

This question received a 'Yes' response of 33 and a 'No' response of 16.

Currently, on sitting Tuesdays, the House meets at 2.00 pm, suspends for a dinner break from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, and resumes sitting until approximately 10.00 pm. The Committee is persuaded by a number of representations from members that scheduling sittings from noon to 7.00 pm on sitting Tuesdays would enable members to spend more time with their families—and that family-friendly hours may also encourage more young women to consider entering Parliament. In addition, the Committee is of the view that working late into the evening is unlikely to be the most productive or healthy way for members to carry out their important legislative role and, whether members have families or not, it is important for those in the workplace to have a work-life balance. The Committee is even more persuaded of the value of this recommendation given that the Assembly will be sitting for 24 weeks in 2019.

Although scheduling sitting Tuesdays from noon to 7.00 pm would not shorten the average sitting Tuesday, the Committee is aware that on occasion the Government may need the House to sit for additional time on Tuesdays to progress essential business. The Committee is of the view that it is appropriate the Government should have the option to do so. On such occasions, a dinner break would need to be scheduled from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm. The Committee further notes, that the Government also has the option of sitting late on the following day and that this may prove a more appropriate course as it would provide additional notice to members and catering services at Parliament House.

Allowing member's babies to be fed in the Chamber

Question 2 of the survey proposed:

- (a) Breast feeding to be permitted in the Chamber.
- (b) Breast feeding mothers to be able to lodge a proxy vote with the Whip.

Part (a) of this question received a 'Yes' response of 31 and a 'No' response of 14.

Part (b) of this question received a 'Yes' response of 37 and a 'No' response of 9.

Current practice in the Assembly is that members' babies are not fed in the Chamber and that a parent who needs to feed a baby is granted an informal pair for divisions.

Both proposals in the survey received a strong positive response from members, with one member commenting on the survey form that the inability to feed babies in the Chamber 'is currently a barrier to young women entering Parliament'. The Committee upon further consideration, however, is of the view that the second option of lodging proxy votes could be in breach of section 24 of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* which stipulates:

24. Quorum — division, casting vote

The presence of at least one-third of the members of the Legislative Assembly, exclusive of the Speaker, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the despatch of business; and all questions which shall arise in the Legislative Assembly shall be decided by a majority of votes *of the members present*, other than the Speaker, and when the votes shall be equal the Speaker shall have the casting vote ... [italics added]

Accordingly, the Committee recommends the first option, but agrees with those members who commented on the survey form that 'bottle-fed' babies also be included. The Committee concurs that not only should bottle-fed babies receive the same consideration as breast-fed babies, but that bottle feeding would also enable fathers who are members to engage more actively in parenting their children.

Streamlining debate in the Chamber

Question 4 of the survey dealt with reducing time limits for speeches in the Chamber, and was in three parts:

- (a) Reduce lead speaking time on bills and motions from 60 minutes to 45 minutes.
- (b) Abolish 10-minute extensions on second reading speeches and motions.
- (c) Reduce third reading speeches from 30 minutes to 15 minutes.

Part (a) of this question received a 'Yes' response of 33 and a 'No' response of 17.

Part (b) of this question received a 'Yes' response of 18 and a 'No' response of 32.

Part (c) of this question received a 'Yes' response of 35 and a 'No' response of 15.

Currently, members of the Assembly have a range of opportunities to speak in the Chamber: on an annual basis there are wide-ranging debates during the Address in Reply or Premier's Statement and the annual Appropriation Bills; on a weekly basis, there is a three-hour allocation during Private Members' Business as well as a Matter of Public

Interest debate, grievances, and Members' Statements; and on a daily sitting basis, there are opportunities to contribute to debates on bills and motions and Questions on Notice.

The Committee considers that there is scope to trim some of the quite generous speaking limits (compared to most Australian parliamentary jurisdictions) on bills and motions to create space to provide increased opportunities for members to present a grievance to a Minister or to make a Members' Statement on behalf of their electorate.

There was strong majority support in the House for lead speaking times on bills and motions to be reduced from 60 minutes to 45 minutes. The Committee is of the view that even 45 minutes is an ample allocation of time and the reduction should not prove a constraint to members when introducing and explaining matters in the House. On the rare occasion when 45 minutes is considered to be inadequate, there is the option to seek a 15-minute extension by leave of the House under Standing Order 102 or to suspend Standing Orders for a longer extension, if required.

There was even stronger support in the House to truncate third reading speeches from 30 minutes to 15 minutes. The Committee is firmly of the view that given members currently have the capacity to speak to a Bill for 30 minutes at the second reading stage (and will still have 25 minutes if the recommendations in this report are adopted) and can make unlimited five-minute contributions during consideration in detail (as opposed to some jurisdictions which limit the number of contributions)¹, there should not be the need for members to speak for a further 30 minutes at the third reading stage. The Committee further notes that in some parliamentary jurisdictions, for example, the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, it is not open to the House to have a third reading debate if a Bill has not undergone consideration in detail. The Committee, however, accepts the suggestion made by one member on the survey form that the lead speakers be permitted 30 minutes at the third reading stage. Considering that Ministers frequently summarise and respond to each member's contribution to the debate in their third reading speeches, there is merit in this suggestion and, for balance, the lead Opposition speaker should also have the opportunity to place on the record a full summary of the Opposition's position.

With respect to part (b) of the question: eliminating ten-minute extensions, the Committee accepts that there is strong opposition to removing the extension. The Committee notes, however, that a number of members suggested shorter extensions on the survey form which would help to streamline debate but still 'give the member time to wrap up'. Accordingly, the Committee recommends trialling five-minute extensions.

¹ The New South Wales Legislative Assembly caps the number of questions a Member may ask on any particular question in consideration in detail to three questions.

Increased opportunities for members to speak

Grievances

Question 7 of the survey proposed:

Five grievance debates (six minutes per speaker) with the extra grievance going to the Opposition.

This question received 32 'Yes' responses and 15 'No' responses.

Currently one hour is allocated per week for four members to make a grievance for a period of up to seven minutes, with a Minister, or member deputed, having the right to reply—also for a period of up to seven minutes.

Grievances are a particularly valuable opportunity for members to raise matters of interest or concern to them and/or their electorates without the restrictions imposed on Questions (with or without notice) or the need formally to propose a motion. Equally valuable, the member receives a response from the relevant Minister, unlike, for example, the House of Representatives where members grieve and Ministers very seldom respond.

The Committee is of the view that reducing the grievance and response to six minutes each would still provide adequate time for a member to put their case and for a Minister to make a considered response. Making a one-minute reduction to the time limit of each grievance and response would enable an additional grievance to be made and responded to each week. Over a parliamentary year, this would provide approximately 20 additional opportunities for Opposition members to raise a matter of importance with a Minister.

Members' Statements

Question 9 of the survey proposed:

5 x 2-minute Members' Statements at Thursday, 12.50 pm

and

5 x 2-minute Members' Statements at Wednesday, 6.50 pm.

This question received 37 'Yes' responses and 12 'No' responses.

Currently Members' Statements take place for a ten-minute period on Thursdays from 12.50 pm to 1.00 pm. Six ninety-second statements are made by private members, ie members who are not a Minister or the Speaker, with the number of statements evenly allocated between Government and Opposition members. Members' Statements provide an opportunity for members to raise topics not normally accommodated by

debate in the House—in particular, to raise matters of interest or importance to members' electorates.

This Committee considers that ninety seconds is too short for a statement, with the result that members tend to rush them. Indeed, on occasion the statements are delivered so rapidly that they are close to unintelligible. By contrast, Brief Ministerial Statements, which have a three-minute time limit are seldom rushed. The Committee would like to trial two-minute statements and see if this assists members to make a more significant and dignified contribution to proceedings.

In addition, the Committee is keen to increase the total number of Members' Statements, given their value to, and popularity with, members. By adopting the changes recommended in Question 8, members would be able to make an additional 80 statements over a typical 20-week sitting year.

Conclusion

The Committee considers that the amendments to the Standing Orders recommended in this report will assist in the more efficient passage of bills and motions in the House, will provide members with increased and enhanced opportunities to raise matters of concern to themselves and their constituents, and will help to make the Chamber a healthier and more family-friendly workplace.

Trial Operation

The Committee recommends that its proposed changes to the Standing Orders be trialled during the 2019 sitting year with members deciding at the end of the trial period whether they wish to make some or all of the changes permanent. The Committee also recommends that a review, by means of a short member survey, be undertaken at the midway point in the trial—at the end of the spring session—so that any minor improvements or additional changes can be considered and potentially incorporated in the second half of the trial.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 19

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 19 be amended by deleting ‘2.00 p.m.’ and substituting ‘12 noon’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Days and times of meeting

19. Unless otherwise ordered, the Assembly will meet for business on each Tuesday at 12 noon, each Wednesday at 12 noon and each Thursday at 9.00 a.m.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 40

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 40 be amended by inserting the following sentence at the end of the Standing Order: ‘A stranger does not include a member’s baby being fed by that member’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Admittance of members of the Council and strangers to the Chamber

40. Only the Speaker may admit strangers onto the floor of the Chamber. When a division is called, strangers will withdraw. Members of the Council will be admitted to the Chamber in the area behind the Chair and may remain there during divisions. A stranger does not include a member’s baby being fed by that member.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 101

1. That as a trial for 2019, the section on ‘Motions’ in Standing Order 101 be amended by:

(a) deleting ‘60’ as the allocated time for the ‘Mover’, the ‘Premier or one member deputed’ and the ‘Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed’ and substituting ‘45’; and

(b) deleting ‘10’ under the extension subsection and substituting ‘5’;
and

2. That as a trial for 2019, the section on ‘Other Bills’ in Standing Order 101 be amended by:

(a) deleting ‘60’ as the allocated time for the ‘Mover’, the ‘Premier or one member deputed’ and the ‘Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed’ and substituting ‘45’; and

(b) deleting ‘10’ under the extension subsection and substituting ‘5’;
and

3. That as a trial for 2019, the section on ‘Third reading’ under ‘Other Bills’ in Standing Order 101 be amended by:

(a) deleting the words of the section and substituting the following:

Third reading –

Mover 30minutes

Premier or one member deputed †30 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #30 minutes

Any other member 15 minutes

Mover in reply 30 minutes

† If not a Government bill

If not an Opposition bill

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Time limits on speeches

101. A member may speak for the specified period on the following subjects —

...

Motions

Mover 45 minutes

Premier or one member deputed †45 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #45 minutes

Any other member *20 minutes

On any amendment, each member 20 minutes

Mover in reply 45 minutes

† If not a Government motion

If not an Opposition motion

* If the member speaking so requests during or immediately upon the expiry of a speech, the time for the speech will be extended by a further 5 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under Standing Order 102.

...

Other Bills

Second reading —

Mover 45 minutes

Premier or one member deputed †45 minutes

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed #45 minutes

Any other member *20 minutes

Mover in reply 45 minutes

- † If not a Government bill
- # If not an Opposition bill
- * If the member speaking so requests during or immediately upon the expiry of a speech, the time for the speech will be extended by a further 5 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under Standing Order 102.

Third reading —

Mover	30minutes
Premier or one member deputed	†30 minutes
Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed	#30 minutes
Any other member	15 minutes
Mover in reply	30 minutes

- † If not a Government bill
- # If not an Opposition bill

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 146

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 146 be amended by deleting ‘Four’ and substituting ‘Five’.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Grievances

146. At a time determined by the Speaker on each Thursday when the Address in Reply no longer has priority, the Speaker will call for grievances. Five members may speak on grievances and no member may speak more than once. A Minister or a member deputed will have the right to reply to each of the grievances.

Standing Order 101

That as a trial for 2019, SO 101 be amended by deleting '7' and substituting '6' after the section 'Grievance debate (S.O. 146)'.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Time limits on speeches

101. A member may speak for the specified period on the following subjects –

...

Grievance debate (S.O. 146)

Each member including a Minister or a member deputed to reply 6 minutes

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends –

Standing Order 147

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 147 be amended by deleting 'Once' and substituting 'Twice', by deleting 'six' and substituting 'five', and by deleting '90 seconds' and substituting 'two minutes'.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Members' statements

147. Twice in each sitting week, at a time decided by the Speaker, the Speaker will call for statements by members, and up to five members, other than a Minister, may make a statement not exceeding two minutes each.

Standing Order 101

That as a trial for 2019, Standing Order 101 be amended by deleting '90 seconds' and substituting '2 minutes' after the section 'Members' statements (S.O. 147)'.

The Temporary Standing Order will then read:

Time limits on speeches

101. A member may speak for the specified period on the following subjects –

...

Members' statements (S.O. 147)

Member 2 minutes

Maximum of 10 members.



**Hon Peter Watson, MLA
Chair of the Committee
20 September 2018**

Appendix One

Legislative Assembly Members' Survey

MEMBERS' SURVEY

Current	Proposed		Comments
1 Sitting Tuesdays commence at 2 pm and conclude at 10 pm with a one-hour dinner break between 6 and 7 pm.	For one year's trial – Sitting Tuesday to commence at 12 noon and conclude at 7 pm with no break for dinner (Government to retain ability to have the House sit longer if required)	YES /NO	
2 Breast feeding not permitted in Chamber	(a) Breast feeding to be permitted in Chamber	YES /NO	
	(b) Breast feeding mothers to be able to lodge a proxy vote with the Whip	YES /NO	
3 One Matter of Public Interest (MPI) per week	A second MPI to be held in Private Members' Business	YES /NO	
4 Time limits on speeches	Reduce lead speaking time on bills and motions from 60 minutes to 45 minutes	YES /NO	
	Abolish 10-minute extensions on second reading speeches and motions	YES /NO	
	Reduce third reading speeches from 30 minutes to 15 minutes	YES /NO	
5 Electronic petitions not permitted	Assembly invest in technology to permit electronic petitions	YES /NO	
6 Petitions, once tabled, are not actioned	If a petition gets sufficient number of signatures, it is to be:		
	(a) sent to a Minister for a response; and/or	YES /NO	
	(b) debated in the House; and/or	YES /NO	
	(c) sent to a committee for consideration	YES /NO	
7 4 grievance debates (7 minutes per speaker)	5 grievance debates (6 minutes per speaker) with extra grievance going to the Opposition.	YES /NO	
8 6 x 90-second statements at Thursday 12.50 pm	5 x 2-minute statements at Thursday, 12.50 pm <u>and</u> 5 x 2-minute statements at Wednesday, 6.50 pm	YES /NO	
9 Reading of speeches not permitted (except Minister's second reading speeches)	Any member may read a speech	YES /NO	

FURTHER COMMENTS:

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.....

.....

MEMBER'S NAME:

Appendix Two

Legislative Assembly Members' Survey — Summary of Results

MEMBERS' SURVEY RESULTS

(50 responses)

Current		Proposed	Results	
1	Sitting Tuesdays commence at 2 pm and conclude at 10 pm with a one-hour dinner break between 6 and 7 pm.	For one year's trial – Sitting Tuesday to commence at 12 noon and conclude at 7 pm with no break for dinner (Government to retain ability to have the House sit longer if required)	YES 33	NO 16
2	Breast feeding not permitted in Chamber	(a) Breast feeding to be permitted in Chamber	YES 31	NO 14
		(b) Breast feeding mothers to be able to lodge a proxy vote with the Whip	YES 37	NO 9
3	One Matter of Public Interest (MPI) per week	A second MPI to be held in Private Members' Business	YES 18	NO 27
4	Time limits on speeches	Reduce lead speaking time on bills and motions from 60 minutes to 45 minutes	YES 33	NO 17
		Abolish 10-minute extensions on second reading speeches and motions	YES 18	NO 32
		Reduce third reading speeches from 30 minutes to 15 minutes	YES 35	NO 15
5	Electronic petitions not permitted	Assembly invest in technology to permit electronic petitions	YES 30	NO 18
6	Petitions, once tabled, are not actioned	If a petition gets sufficient number of signatures, it is to be:		
		(a) sent to a Minister for a response; and/or	YES 41	NO 3
		(b) debated in the House; and/or	YES 13	NO 31
		(c) sent to a committee for consideration	YES 34	NO 11
7	4 grievance debates (7 minutes per speaker)	5 grievance debates (6 minutes per speaker) with extra grievance going to the Opposition.	YES 32	NO 15
8	6 x 90-second statements at Thursday 12.50 pm	5 x 2-minute statements at Thursday, 12.50 pm <u>and</u> 5 x 2-minute statements at Wednesday, 6.50 pm	YES 37	NO 12
9	Reading of speeches not permitted (except Minister's second reading speeches)	Any member may read a speech	YES 24	NO 23

Appendix Three

Committee's Functions and Powers

Legislative Assembly Standing Order No. 284 provides the following functions, powers and terms of reference to the Procedure and Privileges Committee -

Procedure and Privileges Committee

284.

(1) A Procedure and Privileges Committee will be appointed at the beginning of each Parliament to —

- (a) examine and report on the procedures of the Assembly; and
- (b) examine and report on issues of privilege; and
- (c) wherever necessary, confer with a similar committee of the Council.

(2) Membership of the committee will consist of the Speaker and four other members as the Assembly appoints.

(3) Standing Order 278 will apply except that where possible any report of the committee will be presented by the Deputy Speaker.

(4) When consideration of a report from the committee is set down as an order of the day it will be considered using the consideration in detail procedure.