

Procedural Digest

No. 6

46th Parliament

4 – 13 February 2020

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Selected entries contain links to video footage via *Parlview*. Please note that the first time you click a [Watch] link, you may need to refresh the page (ctrl+F5) for the correct starting point.

Bills

6.01 Treasury Laws Amendment (2019-20 Bushfire Tax Assistance) Bill 2020 introduced and passed by the House

During government business on 5 February, the Treasurer introduced the Treasury Laws Amendment (2019-20 Bushfire Tax Assistance) Bill 2020, together with an explanatory memorandum. The Treasurer moved that the bill be read a second time and made his second reading speech. Debate, by leave, continued and a number of Members spoke. Upon conclusion of debate, the bill was read a second time. A minister, by leave, moved that the bill be read a third time and the question was agreed to on the voices. The bill was passed by the House.

Hansard: 5 February 2020, 176-88
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/620

SOs 63, 138, 141, 142, 155

6.02 Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2019-2020 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2019-2020 introduced

On 13 February, a minister presented Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2019-2020 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2019-2020 and made a second reading speech for each bill. Debate on each bill was adjourned to a future sitting.

The Speaker announced receipt of a message from the Governor-General recommending an appropriation for the purposes of each bill before each was presented.

Hansard: 13 February 2020, 1152-4
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/704

SOs 141, 147, 178, 180

Business

6.03 Condolence motion on Australian bushfires

Following prayers and acknowledgement of country on 4 February, the Leader of the House moved that standing orders be suspended to allow for the Prime Minister to move a motion of condolence in relation to the recent Australian bushfires and for debate on the motion to have precedence over all other business. The motion also provided that the Federation Chamber would not meet that day. The question was carried.

The Prime Minister then moved a motion of condolence acknowledging the devastation caused by the bushfires during the summer and extending the sympathies of the House to the families who had lost loved ones and to those who had suffered injuries or loss. The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and debate continued for the rest of the day. At the conclusion of debate, all Members present rose in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased. Debate was adjourned and the order of the day was referred to the Federation Chamber for further debate.

At 7.53 pm, the House adjourned as a mark of respect to the victims of the Australian bushfires. [\[Watch\]](#)

On 5, 6, 11 and 12 February, the condolence motion was further debated in the Federation Chamber.

On 12 February, the condolence motion was returned to the House and, all Members present having risen in silence, the motion was carried.

At the conclusion of a condolence motion, the Speaker puts the question and asks Members to signify their approval of the motion by rising in their places for a short period of silence.

Hansard: 4 February 2020, 1-104

5 February 2020, 337-425

6 February 2020, 548-93

11 February 2020, 910-28

12 February 2020, 1109-22; 1010

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/607-8; 643-5; 662-3; 686-7; 693; 699-700

SOs 47, 49, 183

6.04 Suspension of standing orders to change order of business in the Federation Chamber

On 4 and 5 February, an assistant minister moved to suspend standing orders to allow for a variation to the order of business in the Federation Chamber for the following day. The motions allowed for the Australian bushfires condolence motion to be the only item of business in the Federation Chamber on 5 and 6 February. The suspension motions were agreed to on the voices.

Hansard: 4 February 2020, 104-5

5 February 2020, 320

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/608; 641

6.05 Arrangements for visit by the President of the Republic of Indonesia

On 5 February, the Leader of the House, pursuant to notice, moved a motion inviting His Excellency Mr Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, to attend and address the House on Monday, 10 February 2020. The motion provided for welcoming remarks by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to take place at 11.30 am, prior to the address by His Excellency. The motion also provided for a message to be sent to the Senate inviting Senators to attend the House as guests for the address. The motion was carried on the voices.

Hansard: 5 February 2020, 175-6

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/620

SOs 30, 111, 257, 259

6.06 New Deputy Leader of National Party of Australia and New Leader of Australian Greens announced

Prior to question time on 5 February, the Deputy Prime Minister informed the House that the Member for Maranoa (Mr Littleproud) had been elected as the Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia.

Later, the Member for Melbourne (Mr Bandt) informed the House that he had been elected Leader of the Australian Greens.

Hansard: 5 February 2020, 240, 243

6.07 Address by the President of the Republic of Indonesia

On 10 February, following the acknowledgement of country and reading of prayers, the Speaker welcomed the President of the Senate and Senators, who had assembled in the House of Representatives Chamber, as guests. The President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr Joko Widodo was announced and the Speaker welcomed President Widodo. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition each made welcoming remarks and the Speaker invited President Widodo to address the meeting. President Widodo addressed the House in Bahasa Indonesia, the official language of Indonesia. The Speaker, on behalf of the House, expressed thanks to the President, who then departed the Chamber. The sitting was then suspended from 12.15 pm to 2.30 pm. [\[Watch\]](#)

*Hansard: 10 February 2020, 597-604
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/665*

6.08 Consideration of Senate message relating to private Senator's bill

On 11 February, the Speaker reported a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate had agreed to a resolution calling on the government to bring on the Australian Greens' National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 (No. 2), in the House of Representatives, for a vote during the February 2020 sittings, and requesting the concurrence of the House with the resolution. The Deputy Leader of the House moved that consideration of the Senate message be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Mr Bandt) moved, as an amendment, that the message be considered immediately. Before the amendment could be seconded, the Deputy Leader of the House moved that the question be put. The closure motion was agreed to on division. The question that the Senate message be made an order of the day for the next sitting was subsequently agreed to on division.

*Hansard: 11 February 2020, 785-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/676-8*

SOs 81, 261

6.09 Prime Minister's statement on Closing the Gap

On 12 February, the Prime Minister presented the Closing the Gap report for 2020 and, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the report. The Leader of the Opposition spoke in response. The Leader of the House moved that the House take note of the document and debate on the report was referred to the Federation Chamber. [\[Watch\]](#)

The Closing the Gap report is an annual report to parliament on progress in closing the gap between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

*Hansard: 12 February 2020, 969-81
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/691
SO 63A, 199, 202*

Documents

6.10 Revised ministry lists presented

Prior to question time on 5 February, the Prime Minister presented a revised ministry list.

On 10 February, the Prime Minister presented another revised ministry list, reflecting changes to the ministry and a change of representative arrangements in the Senate. The Leader of the Opposition subsequently presented a revised shadow ministry list, which reflected changes made to representative arrangements in the Senate due to government ministry changes.

*Hansard: 5 February 2020, 240-2
10 February 2020, 604-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/628; 665
SO 199*

Motions

6.11 Opposition motion to suspend standing orders – Community Sport Infrastructure Program

On 5 February, the Leader of the Opposition moved to suspend standing orders to allow him to move a motion calling on the government to fund all projects recommended by Sport Australia under the Community Sport Infrastructure program. The mover and the seconder were closed on division and, following closure of debate, the suspension motion was negated on division.

*Hansard: 5 February 2020, 188-96
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/620-4
SOs 47, 80, 81, 111, 116, 126, 129, 130*

6.12 Opposition motion to suspend standing orders – Prime Minister

On 5 and 6 February, the Leader of the Opposition moved to suspend standing orders to allow him to move a motion calling on the Prime Minister to act within the nation's interest. On both occasions, the mover and the seconder were closed on division and, following closure of debate, the suspension motion was negated on division.

*Hansard: 5 February 2020, 259-67
6 February 2020, 516-23
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/629-33; 655-9
SOs 47, 80, 81, 111, 116, 126, 129, 130*

6.13 Opposition motion to suspend standing orders – Minister for Health

On 5 February, the Shadow Minister for Health (Mr Bowen) moved to suspend standing orders to allow him to move a motion calling on the Minister for Health to make a statement in the House. The mover and the seconder were closed on division and the suspension motion was negated on division.

Hansard: 5 February 2020, 313-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/638-41

SOs 47, 80

6.14 Opposition motion to suspend standing orders – Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

On 6 February, the Deputy Manager of Opposition Business moved to suspend standing orders to allow him to move a motion calling on the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction and the Prime Minister to make statements in the House concerning the use of incorrect figures in ministerial correspondence.

The Speaker remarked that the terms of the motion were too long and warned Members against the moving of such lengthy motions in the future.

The mover and the seconder were closed on division and, following closure of debate, the suspension motion was negated on division.

Hansard: 6 February 2020, 435-44
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/647-51

SOs 47, 80, 81

Privilege

6.15 Matter of Privilege – Statement by Speaker

On 5 December 2019, the Manager of Opposition Business raised a matter of privilege regarding whether statements made to the House by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction had misled the House, constituting contempt of the House (see entry 5.28).

The Speaker responded on 5 February. He explained that in order to establish that contempt had been committed in this case, it would need to be shown that a statement had been misleading, the member knew at the time the statement was incorrect and the misleading had been deliberate. In the Speaker's view, a *prima facie* case for contempt had not been made out. As such, in accordance with the practice of the House, the Speaker did not give precedence to a motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests.

Hansard: 5 December 2019; 7164-7165
5 February 2020; 268-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2019/602; 634-5

SO 51

Questions

6.16 Part of question ruled out of order

During question time on 10 February, the Speaker ruled part of a question, relating to political donations, out of order. He advised that ministers were not responsible for donations to political parties.

Hansard: 10 February 2020; 627

SOs 98, 100

6.17 Prime Minister asked to be relevant during question time

During question time on 11 February, the Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy asked the Prime Minister a question regarding indemnity for the Collinsville coal power plant. During the Prime Minister's answer, the Manager of Opposition Business raised a point of order on relevance. The Speaker noted that the Prime Minister had been allowed a preamble and asked that he address the specific part of the question.

Hansard: 11 February 2020; 830-1

SO 104

6.18 Speaker directs ministers to be relevant during question time

During question time on 13 February, the Speaker directed a number of ministers to be relevant in their answers to the questions asked of them.

Hansard: 13 February 2020, 1217-34

SO 104

Speaker

6.19 Resignation of Deputy Speaker

On 6 February, by indulgence, the Deputy Speaker (Mr Hogan) advised the House of his intention to resign from his role as Deputy Speaker due to his appointment to the ministry. The Speaker thanked the Deputy Speaker for his service and informed the House that a ballot to elect a new Deputy Speaker would take place on Monday, 10 February following question time.

Hansard: 6 February 2020, 499

SOs 13, 14

6.20 Question to the Speaker – Parliament House cybersecurity

Following question time on 6 February, the Member for Gellibrand (Mr Watts) asked the Speaker to comment on a podcast episode in which a former minister and a former departmental secretary discussed a cybersecurity incident at Parliament House discovered in January 2019. The Speaker noted that, at the time, both he and the President of the Senate had balanced the need for transparency with national security concerns in making statements to the parliament. However, he stressed that any inference that those statements were inaccurate or misleading as to the seriousness of the situation were false.

Hansard: 6 February 2020; 525-6

SO 103

6.21 Election of Deputy Speaker

On 10 February, the Speaker informed the House that the Member for Page (Mr Hogan) had tendered his resignation as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. He then called for nominations for a new Deputy Speaker.

A Government Member, Dr Webster, nominated the Member for Nicholls (Mr Damian Drum). The Manager of Opposition Business nominated the Member for Wide Bay (Mr Llew O'Brien) and the Deputy Manager of Opposition Business seconded the nomination. Both nominees are members of the government.

Members then proceeded to vote by ballot. Mr O'Brien received 75 votes and Mr Drum received 67. The Speaker thereby declared Mr O'Brien elected Deputy Speaker.

The Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Nationals and the Speaker each made congratulatory remarks.

In accordance with standing order 13, if a government Member is elected as Deputy Speaker, only a non-government Member may be elected Second Deputy Speaker. If a non-government Member is elected as Deputy Speaker, only a government Member may be elected as Second Deputy Speaker.

*Hansard: 10 February 2020, 629-33
Votes and Proceedings: 2019/665-6*

SOs 11, 13, 14

6.22 Question to the Speaker – Parliament House events

Following question time on 12 February, the Manager of Opposition Business noted, with appreciation, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra pop-up performances held in Parliament House the previous day. He asked the Speaker if it were possible for such events to be organised more often. The Speaker agreed that the pop-up performances were a success and would be considered again in the future. He also thanked the Parliamentary Friends of Orchestral Music for their initiative in bringing the orchestra to Canberra.

Hansard: 12 February 2020, 1030

SO 103

6.23 Statement by the Speaker – Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

On 13 February, the Speaker made a statement to the House regarding the Parliament's recent hosting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in January 2020. The Speaker informed Members that over 340 delegates and participants from 19 APPF member countries and 10 observer nations attended the meeting. The Australian Parliament was also represented by 27 Members and Senators. The Speaker also presented the Joint Communiqué, Chairman's Statement and Resolutions of the conference.

The Member for Menzies (Mr Andrews) and the Opposition Whip (Ms Ryan), by indulgence, also made statements on the matter.

*Hansard: 13 February 2020, 1172-6
Votes and Proceedings: 2019/706*

SO 199

Offensive words[#]

	Hansard	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'...bullshit artists and the ratbags...'	5 February 2020	277
'This corrupt minister should resign-'	6 February 2020	440
'...they can smell the stench of corruption from that side of the House now.'	6 February 2020	497-8
'...the Waikiki kid...'	10 February 2020	737-8
'It is one giant corrupt patronage network.'	11 February 2020	880
'It was an offset, you idiot!'	13 February 2020	1238
'What I do care about is the fact that he lied to the media, snuck out of the country and refused to tell anyone who was in charge.'	13 February 2020	1245

SOs 89, 90, 92

[#] List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.