

Procedural Digest

No. 64*3–12 February 2009*

<i>February 2009</i>				
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Bills

64.01 *Amended routine of business — Introduction and passage of economic stimulus package bills — Extended sitting*

Following prayers the Leader of the House moved, on notice, a suspension of standing and sessional orders to facilitate the introduction and passage of six bills relating to the Government's economic stimulus package.

The motion provided for the suspension of standing order 31 (automatic adjournment of the House) and standing order 33 (limit on business after 10 p.m.), for debate on the six bills to be adjourned to a later hour following their introduction, for a cognate debate on the bills to take place upon resumption, and for all questions necessary to complete passage of the bills following the second reading debate to be put consecutively and immediately without any business intervening and without amendment or debate.

The motion was agreed to following debate and the six bills were introduced, including two Appropriation bills (*see* entry **64.02**). A cognate debate resumed on the bills immediately, and was interrupted at 2 p.m. by Question Time. Debate resumed later in the sitting and continued until 4.45 a.m. the following day, when the Leader of the House moved that the question be put. The question was carried on division, and all remaining questions on the bills were then put and carried consecutively, with the House dividing on the second reading of each bill and the remaining stages of the first bill.

Prior to the House adjourning at 5.30 a.m., a motion by the Leader of the House was agreed to which altered the hour of next sitting until 10 a.m. this day (usually 9 a.m. on a Thursday).

Hansard: 4 February 2009, 164-233, 276-434
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/827-9, 830-9

SOs 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 47, 138, 141, 142

64.02 *Additional appropriation bills introduced*

The Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No. 1) 2008-2009 and Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No. 2) 2008-2009 were introduced as part of a package of six bills (*see* entry **64.01**) to appropriate money from the consolidated revenue fund for the ordinary annual services of Government and certain expenditure in relation to nation building and jobs. During his second reading speech to one of the bills, the Treasurer advised that the appropriations were being sought to give effect to the Government's Nation Building and Jobs Plan in response to the global economic crisis.

Hansard: 4 February 2009, 168-73
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/828

SOs 178, 179

64.03 *Amended routine of business—Re-introduction and passage of economic stimulus package bills—Sitting extends over 2 days—Suspended overnight*

After the six bills relating to the Government's economic stimulus package (*see* entry **64.01**) were negatived at the third reading stage in the Senate, the Leader of the House moved, by leave, a suspension of standing and sessional orders to facilitate the re-introduction and passage of the six bills.

The motion provided for debate on the six bills to be adjourned to a later hour following their introduction, for a cognate debate on the bills to take place upon resumption with a maximum of eight Members (including the mover) speaking, and for all questions necessary to complete passage of the bills following the second reading debate to be put consecutively and immediately without any business intervening and without amendment or debate.

The motion was agreed to following debate and the six bills were introduced (three of the six bills were identical to those rejected by the Senate). A cognate debate resumed on the bills immediately and, following eight speakers the question on the second reading of the first bill was put and carried on division. All remaining questions on the bills were then put and carried consecutively, with the House dividing on the second reading of each bill.

The sitting was then suspended, at 11.53 p.m. The sitting resumed at 1 p.m. the following day and a message from the Senate was announced returning the six bills without amendment or request.

The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, on indulgence, then made some remarks on the passing of the legislation. In response to several points of order regarding the appropriate use of indulgence, the Speaker noted that he had

granted indulgence on the basis that it suited the convenience of the House, but added that he did not see this as a precedent. The House adjourned without debate at 1.44 p.m.

Hansard: 12 February 2009, 1259-1307

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/868-77

SOs 29, 47, 63, 138, 141, 142

64.04 *Prime Minister introduces bill*

The Prime Minister introduced the Appropriation (Nation Building and Jobs) Bill (No. 1) 2008-2009 [No. 2], one of a package of six bills relating to the Government's economic stimulus package (*see* entry **64.03**).

Hansard: 12 February 2009, 1260-5

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/869

SOs 141, 142

Business

64.05 *Statements on indulgence on Victoria Cross recipient*

Prior to Question Time on 3 February the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition both made statements on indulgence regarding the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Trooper Mark Donaldson. Further statements on indulgence regarding the matter were then referred to the Main Committee.

Hansard: 3 February 2009, 6-8

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/809

SO 65

64.06 *Changes to Shadow Ministry*

Prior to Question Time on 3 February, the Leader of the Opposition presented a revised Shadow Ministry list.

Hansard: 3 February 2009, 20-2

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/810

64.07 *House meets late following extended sitting*

In accordance with a motion by the Leader of the House agreed to at the previous sitting (*see* entry **64.01**), the House met at 10 a.m. on Thursday 5 February. The House usually meets at 9 a.m. on sitting Thursdays, but following an extended sitting had not risen until 5.30 a.m. that morning.

Hansard: 5 February 2009, 527

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/843

SOs 29, 30

64.08 *Question time delayed*

On 5 February, the Speaker interrupted debate 'in accordance with the resolution agreed to earlier today', and called on Question Time at 2.30 p.m. rather than the usual 2.00p.m.

Note: This change was to accommodate a press conference following a COAG meeting.

Hansard: 5 February 2009, 574-5, 585

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/845

SOs 34, 97

64.09 *Statements on indulgence on the Queensland floods*

Prior to Question Time on 5 February the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and two other Members made statements on indulgence regarding the flooding in Queensland.

Hansard: 5 February 2009, 583-5

SO 65

64.10 *Extended sitting*

At 4.30 p.m. on 5 February, the Chair proposed 'That the House do now adjourn'. The question was negatived on the voices and discussion continued on the Matter of Public Importance. A Ministerial Statement and response then followed, after which the House adjourned at approximately 5.30 p.m. on the motion of a Parliamentary Secretary.

Hansard: 5 February 2009, 609, 610-25

Votes and Proceedings: 2009/846

SOs 29, 31, 32

64.11 *Suspension of sitting following prayers—Condolence motion on bushfires—Statements on indulgence on floods—Early adjournment*

Following prayers at 12 p.m. on 9 February, the Speaker suspended the sitting until 2 p.m. When the sitting resumed the Deputy Prime Minister moved a condolence motion relating to the Victorian bushfires. The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and addressed by several other Members including the Speaker. All Members present then rose in silence and debate was adjourned.

The Treasurer and other Members then made statements on indulgence on the floods in Queensland.

Following the statements (at approximately 4.06 p.m.) the Leader of the House immediately moved as a mark of respect to the victims of the disasters 'That the House do now adjourn' and the question was agreed to without debate.

The Senate agreed to a condolence motion in similar terms and also adjourned early as a mark of respect.

Hansard: 9 February 2009, 683-709
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/849

SOs 29, 34, 49, 63, 111

64.12 *House meets late—Amended routine of business—Debate resumed on condolence motion*

Pursuant to notification by the Speaker, the sitting on Tuesday, 10 February began at 2.30 p.m. rather than the usual 2 p.m. After prayers the Leader of the House moved, by leave, a suspension of standing and sessional orders to allow Government business orders of the day to be called on immediately.

The motion was agreed to on the voices, and debate was then resumed on a condolence motion regarding the Victorian bushfires (*see* entry **64.11**). Following several contributions, all Members rose in silence and debate was adjourned. Resumption of debate on the motion was referred to the Main Committee. The House then proceeded with other Government business orders of the day before adjourning at the usual time.

Hansard: 10 February 2009, 715-28
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/853-4

SOs 29, 30, 34, 47, 49

64.13 *Amended routine of business for two days—Condolence motion and Government business have precedence*

Early in the sitting on 11 February, following two consecutive sitting days dominated by debate on a condolence motion regarding the Victorian bushfires (*see* entries **64.11** and **64.12**), the Leader of the House moved, by leave, a suspension of standing and sessional orders to set the order of business for the sittings on 11 and 12 February.

The motion provided for consideration of a report from the Main Committee on the condolence motion at 2 p.m. and for debate on the motion to ensue, before being adjourned and standing referred back to the Main Committee, with Government business orders of the day to then take precedence.

The question was agreed to on the voices, and business in the House proceeded in accordance with the motion on 11 and 12 February, with no Question Time occurring on either day.

Hansard: 11 February 2009, 884-6, 931-50; 12 February 2009, 1166-79
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/858, 865-6

SOs 34, 47, 49

64.14 *Suspension of standing orders 31 and 33; Alteration of meeting time*

The Leader of the House, by leave, moved that standing order 31 (automatic adjournment of the House) and standing order 33 (limit on business after 10 p.m.) be suspended for this sitting. Following debate, the motion was agreed to on division.

This motion was moved in anticipation of the House sitting later than usual (*see* entry **64.03**).

Hansard: 12 February 2009, 1199-1206
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/858, 866-7

SOs 31, 33, 47

Debate

64.15 *Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition speak twice to condolence motion*

Having both already spoken to a condolence motion regarding the Victorian bushfires during the previous sitting, the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition addressed the motion again the following day, by leave.

Hansard: 11 February 2009, 943-7
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/858

SOs 63, 69

Main Committee

64.16 *Lack of quorum at start of Main Committee meeting*

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair to commence the meeting of the Main Committee on 4 February at 9.30 a.m. Noting that a quorum was not present, the Deputy Speaker announced that the Chair would be resumed at 10.30 a.m. When

the Chair was resumed at that time, a quorum was present and proceedings commenced.

Hansard: 4 February 2009, 436
Votes and Proceedings: 2009/840

SOs 184, 190

Questions

64.17 *Two answers to one question*

During Question Time, an Independent Member asked the Prime Minister a question relating to several Australians recently imprisoned in Indonesia. The Prime Minister briefly responded to the question, and then asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs to add to the answer. The Minister for Foreign Affairs then gave a detailed response to the question.

Hansard: 5 February 2009, 601-2

SOs 98, 100, 104

Senate

64.18 *Digital speech timers in Senate Chamber*

The President advised Senators that a digital readout had been added to the debate timing clocks in the Senate Chamber on a trial basis. He asked Senators to provide feedback on whether they thought the timers should be made a permanent feature of the Chamber.

Senate Hansard: 3 February 2009, 1

Withdrawals

64.19 *Offensive words*

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SOs 89, 90, 92