

# Procedural Digest

**No. 19****47<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

26–29 February 2024

February/ March 2024				
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## Members

### 19.01 Resignation of the Member for Cook

Prior to question time on Thursday, 29 February, the Speaker announced that he had received a letter of resignation from the Member for Cook, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, the previous day and that consideration was being given to possible dates for the by-election. The Speaker said that he would inform the House of the dates in due course.

Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, Mr Morrison gave a valedictory speech, by leave, in which he reflected on his parliamentary career and roles as minister and prime minister in the former government, thanking his colleagues, friends and family for their support. On indulgence, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Riverina (who had been deputy prime minister in the former government) all thanked the member for his service to the Parliament and to the country.

*Hansard: 27 February 2024, P1-10*

*29 February 2024, P18*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24, 1387*

## Distinguished visitors

### 19.02 President of the Philippines addresses parliament

On Wednesday, 28 February, the Leader of the House, pursuant to notice, moved a motion to make arrangements for the President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Ferdinand R Marcos Jr, to attend and address the House the next day. The motion, which was passed on the voices, was almost identical in form to one moved earlier in the month for an address from the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (see [Digest 18.01](#)).

In accordance with the resolution, the House met the next day at 10.21 am. Following the acknowledgment of country and prayers, the Speaker extended a welcome to the President of the Senate and senators as guests. The President of the Philippines was then announced and escorted into the Chamber, where he was welcomed by the Speaker. After welcoming remarks from the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker invited President Marcos to address the House.

During President Marcos's address, a senator held up a protest sign and was quietly directed to leave the Chamber under standing order 257(c) for disorderly behaviour; later that afternoon, the senator was censured by the Senate for unparliamentary conduct, disrespect of proceedings and disregard for the importance of Australia-Philippines relations.

After the address, members and senators rose and applauded. The Speaker thanked President Marcos for his address and the President of the Senate and senators for their

attendance before inviting the Prime Minister to escort President Marcos as he left the Chamber. The sitting of the House was then suspended from 11.08 am to 12.45 pm.

*Standing order 257(c) requires senators, when present in the Chamber or galleries, to observe the Speaker's instructions regarding good order. Although the Speaker may direct a senator to leave the Chamber for breaching this rule, it is the role of the Senate to determine any consequences for disorderly conduct of a senator.*

*Hansard: 28 February 2024, P12*

*29 February 2024, P1-6*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24, 1376-7*

**SO 257**

## Bills

### 19.03 Debate management motion for housing bills

On Tuesday, 27 February, pursuant to notice, the Leader of the House moved a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders for the consideration of two housing bills – the Help to Buy Bill 2023 and a related bill, the Help to Buy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023.

This debate management motion proposed arrangements for proceedings, including:

- extended hours of sitting on 27 February to continue the cognate second reading debate on the bills, following the adjournment debate, without interruption until either no further members rose to speak or 10 pm or a later time as specified by a Minister prior to 10pm, at which time the House would immediately adjourn;
- on 28 February, continuation of the second reading debate until no further members rose to speak or no later than 5.30pm, at which time:
  - questions immediately would be put on any second reading amendments
  - any questions necessary to complete the remaining stages of the Help to Buy Bill 2023 would be put without amendment or debate, and
- following conclusion of consideration of the Help to Buy Bill 2023, any questions necessary to complete the remaining stages of the related bill would be put without amendment or debate.

An opposition amendment to this motion, which would have removed the provisions relating to business on 28 February, was moved and a division on the question deferred in accordance with standing order 133. Later that day, after the matter of public importance discussion, the amendment was negatived on division and the original motion passed on the voices. In accordance with the resolution, the second reading debate continued after the adjournment debate until 10 pm that night.

On Wednesday, 28 February, Leader of the House moved a variation to the resolution to allow debate on a consideration in detail stage for the principal bill, if required, until no later than 6.20 pm that evening, and the motion was agreed to. Later that evening, the question on the second reading of the main bill was put and passed on division at 5.34 pm before consideration in detail commenced. Both bills passed all stages shortly before 6.30 pm.

*Hansard: 27 February 2024, P10-2, 45-6, 95*

*28 February 2024, P75-6, 86-94*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24, 1367-70, 1378-81*

**SOs 31, 133, 142, 148, 155**

## Motions

### 19.04 Crossbench motions to suspend standing orders

On Monday, 26 February, during the time for government business, the Leader of the Australian Greens moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to allow him to move a motion relating to the House's 16 October 2023 resolution on Israel and Gaza (see [Digest 15.01](#)). Following debate, the motion was defeated on division.

On Thursday, 29 February, the Member for Calare moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to allow him to move a motion relating to housing affordability and immediately calling on the consideration of a private member's bill relating to foreign ownership of residential property for final determination by the House. Following debate, this suspension motion was also defeated on division.

*Hansard*: 26 February 2024, P42-7

29 February 2024, P6-11

*Votes and Proceedings*: 2022-23-24, 1355-6, 1385-6

**SO 47**

## Offensive words<sup>#</sup>

	<i>Hansard</i>	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'The light shines upon the member ... but it doesn't make him any brighter.'	27 February 2024	P22
'... "It's not a lie if you believe it." It's very much the case in terms of the deputy leader.'	27 February 2024	P27
'You're a coward.'	27 February 2024	P29
'... one of the lies they try to tell ...'	27 February 2024	P57

**SOs 88, 89, 90, 92**

<sup>#</sup> List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.