

Procedural Digest

No. 14

46th Parliament

19–29 October 2020

October 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

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

14.01 Opposition motion for passage of the Economic Recovery Package (JobMaker Hiring Credit) Amendment Bill 2020

At 3.13pm on 19 October, the Manager of Opposition Business moved to suspend standing orders to allow for the government's Economic Recovery Package (JobMaker Hiring Credit) Amendment Bill 2020 to be called on immediately and given priority over other business for passage through all stages that day. The question was carried on the voices.

The bill was then called on and, following debate, passed all stages.

Hansard: 19 October 2020, 7361-415
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1276

SOs 45, 47

14.02 Consideration of the Budget

On Tuesday, 20 October, debate resumed on the second reading of Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2020-2021, cognate with Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2020-2021 (also known as the budget debate). The Shadow Assistant Treasurer was the first speaker and moved an amendment critical of certain aspects of the budget.

Later in the day, the Chief Government Whip referred the bills to the Federation Chamber for further consideration.

The debate continued in the Federation Chamber throughout the fortnight. In both sitting weeks, standing orders were suspended to alter the Federation Chamber's order of business to allow additional time for the debate.

On Wednesday, 28 October, the second reading amendment was negated and the question that the bill be read a second time was carried. In total, 81 members spoke in the budget debate. Consideration in detail of the bill was made an order of the day for a later sitting.

Hansard: 20 October 2020, 7519-29; 7580-90
 28 October 2020, 8644-827
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/P1288-9; 1292; 1296-7; 1362-3

SOs 47, 142, 145, 148, 192

14.03 Recycling and waste reduction bills package—rescission of resolutions

Following consideration in detail of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020 on 26 October, the Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management sought and was denied leave to move the third reading immediately. He then, pursuant to contingent notice, moved to suspend standing orders to allow the third reading to be moved without delay.

During the debate, the Manager of Opposition Business indicated that the opposition would not cooperate to expedite the passage of the bills package, as a means to ‘push back’ against the practice of debates being closed in the House.

The debate on the suspension motion was closed and the motion was carried on division. The question that the bill be read a third time was then put and carried, without the motion having been moved by a minister.

The House then passed four related bills. In each case, the bill was read a second time and leave was denied to move the third reading immediately. Standing orders were then suspended to allow the third reading to be moved. The question that the bill be read a third time was put and carried, without the motion having been moved by a minister.

On 28 October, a minister successfully moved that the resolutions of the House agreeing to the third readings of the five bills be rescinded and that each bill be called on and the third reading moved by a minister for resolution without debate. Each of the bills was then called on successively and the third reading of each was moved and carried on the voices.

Hansard: 26 October 2020, 8157-227

28 October 2020, 8486-8

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/ 1318-1339; 1356

SOs 47, 117, 120, 142, 148, 155

Business

14.04 Ministerial statements

On Tuesday, 27 October, the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology made a ministerial statement relating to Australian industry and manufacturing and the shadow minister made a statement in reply.

The following day, the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia made a ministerial statement on developing Northern Australia. A shadow minister spoke in reply.

On 29 October, the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction also made a ministerial statement, relating to Australia’s energy future. The Manager of Opposition Business then, on a point of order, suggested that the content of the statement had been contrary to practice and asked the Speaker to advise the House on the expectations for ministerial statements.

The Speaker responded that the purpose of ministerial statements was to announce government policy or matters for which the minister concerned was responsible and there was no flexibility to speak about anything else, including political matters.

The shadow minister then made his statement in reply.

Hansard: 27 October 2020, 8311-6
28 October 2020, 8580-90
29 October 2020, 8832-42
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/P1347; 1359; 1365

SOs 63, 63A

14.05 Statements on memorial for emergency service personnel

On Wednesday, 28 October, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition both made statements, by indulgence of the Chair, in relation to the National Memorial Service for Fire and Emergency Service Workers. In particular, they paid tribute to the emergency service personnel who had lost their lives during the Australian bushfires last summer.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, all members present stood in silence.

Hansard: 28 October 2020, 8564-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1359

Members

14.06 Groom by-election—issue of writ

On 26 October, the Speaker informed the House that he had issued a writ for the election of a member for the division of Groom, following the resignation of Dr John Joseph McVeigh.

The Speaker confirmed that the polling day would be on Saturday, 28 November 2020.

Hansard: 26 October 2020, 8105
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1310

14.07 Parental leave for member

The Manager of Opposition Business moved that leave of absence be granted to Mr Patrick Gorman until 14 March 2021 for parental leave purposes. The question was carried.

Hansard: 26 October 2020, 8157
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1318

SO 26

Motions

14.08 Anniversary of the national apology to survivors and victims of institutional child sexual abuse

On 22 October, the Prime Minister moved a motion commemorating the two-year anniversary of the national apology to survivors and victims of institutional child sexual abuse. The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion before it was referred to the

Federation Chamber. The motion was debated in the Federation Chamber the following week. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 22 October 2020, 7911-5

29 October 2020, 8952-9

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1305; 1372-3

SOs 111, 183

14.09 House commends Victorians on COVID-19 response

At 2pm on 27 October, the Leader of the Opposition, by leave, moved that the House commend the people of Victoria for their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion congratulated Victorians on overcoming the second wave and recognised the sacrifices they had made. It also provided that the terms be conveyed to the Premier of Victoria. The Prime Minister, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Treasurer each spoke in support and the motion was carried. [\[Watch\]](#)

Hansard: 27 October 2020, 8340-6

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1349

SOs 63, 111

Parliamentary administration

14.10 Attendance in chamber—COVID-19

Compared to recent sittings weeks, there was an increased number of members in attendance this sitting fortnight. A greater number of members also participated in divisions. However, social distancing measures continued to be followed to mitigate health risks associated with COVID-19.

Around 120 members attended the chamber at some time each sitting day and around 50 members were paired for each division. Special seating arrangements ensured appropriate distancing between members in the Chamber.

During the fortnight, a total of 14 members participated remotely in debates and during question time using the official video link.

On 29 October, the Speaker presented a document listing the voting intentions of the Australian Greens member, who had been unable to attend the sittings.

Hansard: 29 October 2020, 8927

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1370

SO 199

14.11 Presiding Officers' statement

On 19 October, the Speaker presented the annual Presiding Officers' statement on the condition of Parliament House.

Hansard: 19 October 2020, 7195

Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1265

SO 199

14.12 Annual reports presented by Speaker

In accordance with section 65 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*, the Speaker presented the 2019-20 annual reports of the Department of the House of Representatives and the Parliamentary Budget Office.

*Hansard: 19 October 2020, 7360
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1276*

SO 199

Private members' business

14.13 Private member's bill debated

During private members' business in the Federation Chamber, debate resumed on the second reading of the [Family Law Amendment \(A Step Towards a Safer Family Law System\) Bill 2020](#). This was the first debate on a private member's bill this parliament.

*Hansard: 26 October 2020, 8244-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1341*

SO 41

14.14 Disallowance motion negatived

During government business time, a minister moved to suspend standing orders to allow for the private members' business notice standing in the name of the Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, relating to the disallowance of the Industry Research and Development (Bankable Feasibility Study on High-Efficiency Low-Emissions Coal Plant in Collinsville Program) Instrument 2020, to be called on immediately. The question was carried.

The shadow minister then moved that the instrument be disallowed and, following a closure of debate, the motion was negatived on division.

*Hansard: 27 October 2020, 8319-26; 8372-4
Votes and Proceedings: 2020/1347; 1350-1*

SO 41

Offensive words[#]

	Hansard	
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
'bloody'	19 October 2020	7337
'...the Prime Minister has made it very clear that the standard he walks past includes conduct by a minister that Federal Court judges described as both disgraceful and criminal, it includes dodgy land deals by government departments to benefit Liberal Party donors and it includes the illegal use of taxpayers' money as if it were a slush fund for the Liberal Party's election campaign...In the absence of an anticorruption commission, we've only been able to scratch the surface of those scandals because, using all the resources of government, the Prime Minister has done everything he can to stymie any rigorous and independent investigation of those matters.'	19 October 2020	7419-20
'...the Minister for Home Affairs, himself a COVID spreader in my home state.'	20 October 2020	7573-4
'bloody'	29 October 2020	8921

SOs 89, 90, 92

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