

Procedural Digest

No. 21

47th Parliament

14 – 16 May 2024

May 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
13	14	15	16	17

Budget

21.01 Introduction of the 2024-2025 Budget and budget reply

On Tuesday evening, in accordance with the resolution of the House at a previous sitting (see Digest 20.07), the Treasurer presented Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2024-2025, moved the second reading and delivered the budget speech. Debate adjourned and the Assistant Treasurer presented budget-related documents, including four budget papers and two ministerial statements: the Women's budget statement 2024-2025 and the Regional ministerial budget statement. The Assistant Treasurer then presented Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2024-2025 and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2024-2025. Before each bill was presented, a message from the Governor-General was announced, recommending appropriation.

On Thursday evening, debate resumed on the second reading of Appropriation Bill (No. 1) and the Leader of the Opposition delivered his budget reply speech.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P115-24

16 May 2024, P102-8

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1508-9, 1548

SOs 142, 178, 180

21.02 Speaker's statements on arrangements for budget speeches

Following Question Time on Tuesday and Thursday, the Speaker made statements to the House relating to procedural arrangements for the budget speech and budget reply respectively. The Speaker told members that:

It should be the aim of all members that both nights proceed smoothly for the benefit of the House and those Australians watching and listening to proceedings.

He reminded members that the speech clock would be on only as a guide, as standing order 1 provides that there is no time limit for the Treasurer or the Leader of the Opposition for the second reading debate for the main appropriation bill. The Speaker also advised that, in accordance with precedent, any directions to leave the Chamber under standing order 94(a) during these speeches would be communicated by written note.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P95

16 May 2024, P67

SO 94

21.03 Ministerial Statement: Regional Budget Statement

On Wednesday, the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, by leave, delivered the regional ministerial budget statement; the statement had been tabled with other Budget documents the previous evening (see Digest 21.01 above). The Leader of the Nationals addressed the House in reply.

Hansard: 15 May 2024, P35-41
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1521

SO 63A

Bills

21.04 Supplementary additional estimates bills presented

On Tuesday, following presentation of the 2024-2025 appropriation bills, the Assistant Treasurer presented two supplementary additional estimates appropriations bills, Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2023-2024 and Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2023-2024. A message from the Governor-General recommending appropriation was announced before the introduction of each bill.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P124-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1509

SOs 142, 178, 180

21.05 House disagrees to Senate amendments

On Wednesday, a message from the Senate was reported returning the Treasury Laws Amendment (Support for Small Business and Charities and Other Measures) Bill 2023 with six amendments. The House considered the amendments immediately, and following debate, disagreed to the amendments on division. The Assistant Treasurer then presented reasons for the House disagreeing to the Senate amendments, and moved that the reasons be adopted, which was carried on the voices.

Hansard: 15 May 2024, P21-4
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1519

SOs 158, 161

21.06 Passage of vehicle efficiency bills

On Thursday morning, the Leader of the House moved a postponement of government business orders of the day to bring on the second reading debate for the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Bill 2024. No member rose to speak to the bill and the question that the first bill be read a second time was put and agreed to on the voices. The Leader of the House sought and was denied leave to move the third reading immediately. The Leader of the House then moved a contingent notice to suspend standing orders to allow the third reading to take place without delay, which was agreed to on division. The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government then moved that the bill be now read a third time and spoke to the motion. The Manager of Opposition Business then rose to move an amendment to the question and the Leader of the House moved closure of question, which was carried on division. The question that the bill be read a third time was then put and passed on division, and the bill was read a third time.

Following the consideration of a motion from the Manager of Opposition Business (see Digest 21.12 below), the second reading debate then resumed on the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2024 and the Leader of the House moved closure of question, which was agreed to on division. The question on the second reading was then put and also agreed to on division, and the bill read a second time. The Leader of the House then moved a contingent motion to allow the third reading to take place without delay, and this motion and the question on the third reading of the bill were resolved on division and the bill was read a third time.

Standing order 155(b) provides that the only amendment permitted to the question that a bill be now read a third time is omitting 'now' in order to insert 'not'. Such an amendment, if carried, would dispose of the bill.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P14-8, 21-6
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1532-4, 1536-40
SOs 47, 81, 142, 155

21.07 Unresolved questions from the Federation Chamber

On Thursday, the Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment Bill 2024 was reported returned from the Federation Chamber with three unresolved questions relating to four amendments moved by a crossbench member during consideration in detail. The unresolved questions on two of the amendments were put and negatived on the voices. The unresolved question was then put on a set of two amendments, which was negatived on division. The bill was then agreed to, consideration in detail concluded and the bill, by leave, was read a third time.

Standing order 195 provides that the Federation Chamber may continue proceedings on a bill regardless of unresolved questions, unless agreement to an unresolved question is necessary to enable further questions to be considered. If progress cannot be made, the bill is returned to the House. In the case above, although the question for each detail amendment could be considered without resolution of the others, the question 'that the bill be agreed to' could not.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P78-88, 118-29
Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1543-44, 1549-50
SOs 148, 150, 152, 153, 155, 195

Committees

21.08 Budget estimates reports by committees

On Tuesday, the Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit made a statement regarding the draft estimates for the Australian National Audit Office and the Parliamentary Budget Office for 2024-2025 and, by leave, presented a copy of his statement.

On Thursday, the Speaker, in his capacity as Chair of the Standing Committee on Appropriations and Administration, presented report No. 29, *Budget estimates 2024-25*.

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit is responsible for parliamentary oversight of the Australian National Audit Office and the Parliamentary Budget Office and is required by legislation to consider the draft budget estimates for each office.

Similarly, the Standing Committee on Appropriations and Administration is required by standing order 222A to consider the draft budget estimates for the operation of the Department of the House of Representatives.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P113-5

16 May 2024, P3

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1507, 1529

SOs 199, 222A

21.09 Motion to appoint joint select committee

On Thursday, a Senate message was reported informing the House that the Senate had agreed to a resolution to appoint a Joint Select Committee on Social Media and Australian Society. The resolution provided that the committee would inquire into matters relating to the influence and impacts of social media on Australian society, with an interim report before 15 August 2024 and a final report by 18 November 2024. The House concurred with the Senate resolution of appointment.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P8-11

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1530-1

SOs 223, 224, 261

Members

21.10 New member sworn

Prior to Question Time on Tuesday, the Speaker announced that, following the return to the writ for a by-election in the division of Cook, Mr Simon Peter Kennedy had been elected. Mr Kennedy was admitted to the Chamber where he made and subscribed the oath of allegiance required by law. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, on indulgence, made statements to welcome Mr Kennedy to the Parliament.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P76-7

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1507

Motions

21.11 Condolence motions

Before Question Time on Tuesday, the Prime Minister moved a condolence motion on the deaths of Yixuan Cheng, Pikria Darchia, Ash Good, Dawn Singleton, Faraz Tahir and Jade Young, who had been killed in a violent event at Bondi Junction Westfield on 13 April 2024. The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and the local member, the Member for Wentworth, also spoke in support. All members present rose in silence as a mark of respect and debate was adjourned. The Leader of the House then declared the order of the day referred to the Federation Chamber for debate, where further speeches were made on Thursday.

Following this condolence motion, the House then considered two condolence motions which had been debated in the Federation Chamber. The Speaker first reported the return of the condolence motion for the Hon Gerry Hand AM; all members present rose in silence to signify approval of the question that the motion of condolence be agreed to. He then

called on the condolence motion for Lance Corporal Jack Fitzgibbon, which had been declared returned by the Leader of the House earlier that morning; this motion was also agreed to, with members again rising in their places to signify their support.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P2, 77-81

16 May 2024, P116-8, 153-7

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1500, 1502-3, 1526-7

SOs 45, 49

21.12 Closure of members during attempted censure motion

On Thursday, following the passage of the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Bill 2024, the Manager of Opposition Business moved, without notice, a suspension of standing and sessional orders to allow for a motion censuring the government for its actions in passing the bill. During the Manager of Opposition Business's speech, the Leader of the House moved 'That the member no longer be heard' and the closure motion was agreed on division. Another opposition member then seconded the motion and was also closed on division. The question that the suspension motion be agreed to was then put and negatived on the voices.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P16-21

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1534-6

SOs 47, 80

21.13 House agrees to private member's motion

At 5.30 pm on Thursday, during government business time, the Leader of the House moved a suspension of standing and sessional orders to allow the Member of Waringah to move a motion without notice, providing an hour for the debate and setting out time limits of 10 minutes for speeches from the mover and seconder and 5 minutes for all other speakers. The question was agreed to on the voices, and the Member for Waringah then rose and moved a motion relating to domestic and family violence. When the allotted time for the debate expired, the Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence required that the debate be extended until 6.45 pm and a further three members spoke to the motion. The question that the motion be agreed to was put and carried on the voices.

The Leader of the House, on indulgence, thanked the Member for Waringah for bringing the matter to the attention of the House and tabled a copy of the motion as a document. He then moved, by leave, that the House take note of the document and debate was adjourned and made an order of the day for the next sitting; this will allow members who were unable to speak to the motion to make contributions to debate on the matter at a later date.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P91-102

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1546-8

SOs 47, 199

21.14 Non-government motions to suspend standing orders

Shortly after the sitting commenced on Tuesday, the Leader of the Australian Greens moved, without notice, a suspension of suspension of standing sessional orders to allow him to move a motion relating to climate change. Following debate, the question on the suspension motion was put and a division was required; in accordance with standing order

133, the division was deferred until after the matter of public importance discussion. When the division was called on that afternoon, the suspension motion was negated.

On Thursday, following passage of the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2024, a shadow minister moved, without notice, a suspension of standing sessional orders to allow him to move a motion relating to consideration of legislation by the House. The following debate, the suspension motion was negated on division.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P2-6, 103-4

16 May 2024, P26-30

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1501, 1505-6, 1540-1

SOs 47, 133

Parliamentary administration

21.15 Responses to Procedure Committee inquiry into recommendations of *Set the Standard*

Prior to the matter of public importance discussion on Thursday, the Speaker presented his response to certain recommendations made in the Standing Committee on Procedure's report entitled *Raising the Standard: inquiry into recommendations 10 and 27 of Set the Standard: Report on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces*. Subsequently, the Leader of the House presented the government response to the same report. In its response, the government agreed to bring forward a recommended amendment to standing orders relating to sanctions against disorderly conduct.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P67

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1542

SO 199

21.16 Fundraising in Parliament House

Following Question Time on Thursday, a crossbench member asked the Speaker for clarification on the rules regarding fundraising events at Parliament House. The Speaker reminded members that political fundraising is not permitted in the bookable areas of Parliament House.

Hansard: 16 May 2024, P66-7

SO 103

Speaker

21.17 Nomination of member to Speaker's Panel

On Tuesday, the Speaker presented a warrant nominating the Member for Flinders (Ms Zoe McKenzie) to be a member of the Speaker's panel.

The role of Speaker's panel members is to take the Chair of the House or the Federation Chamber, as Deputy Speaker, when requested to do so.

Hansard: 14 May 2024, P1

Votes and Proceedings: 2022-23-24/1499

SO 17