

Procedural Digest

No. 4

48th Parliament

27 October – 6 November 2025

October/November 2025					
M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30		31
3	4	5	6		7

Bills

4.01 Passage of package of environment bills

On 30 October, seven environment protection reform bills were introduced and the second reading moved:

- Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025
- National Environmental Protection Agency Bill 2025
- Environment Information Australia Bill 2025
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Customs Charges Imposition) Bill 2025
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Excise Charges Imposition) Bill 2025
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (General Charges Imposition) Bill 2025, and
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Restoration Charge Imposition) Bill 2025.

When debate on the second reading of the first bill resumed on 4 November, the Chair proposed a cognate debate for the bills but this was opposed by the Manager of Opposition Business. Debate resumed on the first bill, before the Leader of the House moved a suspension motion which was agreed to on division, providing for the House and Federation Chamber to sit late and for the seven environment bills to be debated in cognate.

A suspension motion agreed by the House on 5 November, enabled the House and Federation Chamber to sit late again that day. The second reading debate continued on 5 and 6 November, including debate on an amendment moved by a crossbench member (which was disagreed on division).

Consideration in detail of the bills commenced on 6 November. Crossbench members moved 119 detail amendments on the bills, with one of these amendments agreed by the House. The House agreed to the following measures on 6 November to manage the time to consider the bills:

- a suspension motion to manage debate on the bills
- closure motions
- suspension of standing order 43 such that members' statements were not called on and debate on the bills could continue, and
- ending the discussion on the matter of public importance early (see Digest 4.11).

Each of the seven bills passed the House and will be transmitted to the Senate for its consideration.

Hansard: 30 October 2025, 2411-8
4 November 2025, 2748-54; 2756-805
5 November 2025, 2874; 2888-906; 2908-15; 2952-73; 2978-95
6 November 2025, 3078-3109; 3140-9

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/271-2; 295-7; 303; 306; 308; 312; 329-38; 347-54
SOs 43, 46, 47, 81, 141, 142, 145, 148, 150, 155

4.02 Passage of Freedom of Information Bill

Debate resumed on the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2025 on 4 November. The Leader of the House declared that the bill stand referred to the Federation Chamber at the adjournment of the second reading debate. The Manager of Opposition Business then moved to suspend standing and sessional orders so all remaining proceedings on the bill take place in the House – which was negatived on division.

The second reading debate resumed later in the day in the Federation Chamber. On 5 November, the bill was returned to the House and debate resumed before the bill was again referred to the Federation Chamber. At the conclusion of the second reading debate, the bill was reported to the House with an unresolved question. Both crossbench second reading amendments were negatived before the bill was read a second time, on division.

Consideration in detail commenced in the Federation Chamber later that day. Detail amendments were moved by the government and four crossbench members before the bill was reported to the House with five unresolved questions on the crossbench amendments.

On 6 November, the House resolved, on division, to suspend standing orders to manage further consideration of the bill, requiring all unresolved questions and any questions necessary to complete remaining stages of the bill to be put immediately. All detail amendments moved by crossbench members were negatived on division and the government amendments were agreed on division. On division, the bill, as amended, was agreed and then read a third time.

Hansard: 4 November 2025, 2711; 2716-20; 2828-63
5 November 2025, 2879-86; 2906-7; 3008-15; 3031-45
6 November 2025, 3064-77
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/291; 298-300; 300-1; 303-5; 307-8; 314-6; 319-28
SOs 45, 47, 142, 145, 148, 150, 152, 153, 155, 197, 198

Committees

4.03 Communications committees

On Wednesday, 29 October, the Speaker reported a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate had referred the Optus triple zero service outage to the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee. The Shadow Minister for Communications then sought leave to move a motion requiring, among other things, the Minister for Communications to fully cooperate with and appear before the inquiry. Leave was not granted and the Shadow Minister moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to move a motion in the same terms. Debate was adjourned on division.

On Wednesday, 5 November, the Shadow Minister for Communications sought leave to move a motion to refer the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's draft determination on voice interconnection services to the House Standing Committee on

Communications, the Arts and Sport. Leave was not granted and the Shadow Minister moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to enable the moving of the motion. Debate was adjourned on division.

Hansard: 29 October 2025, 2222-6
5 November 2025, 2886-8
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/258-60; 309-10
SOs 47, 79, 215, 261

4.04 Bill proposing new statutory committee passes House

On 5 November, the House passed the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence) Bill 2025. The bill amends the *Defence Act 1903* to establish the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence, to have general oversight of Australian defence agencies. The bill was then transmitted to the Senate for its consideration. In the 47th Parliament, a similar bill passed the House but did not pass the Senate.

Hansard: 5 November 2025, 2949-52
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/308
SO 155

Distinguished visitor

4.05 Distinguished visitor on the floor of the House

On 3 November 2025, with the concurrence of members, the Speaker provided the Right Honourable Gerry Brownlee MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of New Zealand, a seat on the floor of the House.

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition made statements by indulgence to welcome Mr Brownlee.

Standing order 257(a) provides the Speaker the privilege of admitting distinguished visitors to a seat on the floor of the Chamber. This is regarded as a rare honour, and it is customary for the Speaker to formally seek the concurrence of members.

Hansard: 3 November 2025, 2588-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/281
SO 257

Documents

4.06 Parliamentary reports presented

The Speaker presented the following documents relating to the operation of Parliament:

- Department of Parliamentary Services annual report (27 October)
- Department of the House of Representatives annual report (30 October), and
- Presiding Officers' statement regarding the condition of Parliament House (6 November).

The Leader of the House presented the Parliamentary Workplace Support Service annual report on 6 November.

Hansard: 27 October 2025, 2001
30 October 2025, 2457

6 November 2025, 3134
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/233; 274; 344
SO 199

Members

4.07 Revised shadow ministry list presented

On 27 October, prior to the commencement of Question Time, the Leader of the Opposition presented a revised shadow ministry list reflecting changes announced on 13 October 2025.

*Hansard: 27 October 2025, 1987-9
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/233*

4.08 Resolution to incorporate unspoken text into Hansard

On 6 November, the House resolved that a member who is present but unable to address the House or Federation Chamber by reason of chronic illness or disability be permitted to present a copy of their speech for incorporation in Hansard, and that such a contribution form part of the proceedings of the House.

Most resolutions of the House are 'one off' in effect. Resolutions which affect the practice and procedure of the House without a specified duration are often regarded as having permanent validity.

*Hansard: 6 November 2025, 3077
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/328*

Motions

4.09 Opposition motions to suspend standing orders

The Opposition moved to suspend standing orders on four occasions during the fortnight:

- On 28 October, the Shadow Attorney General moved a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders to refer the Crimes Amendment (Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Child Sexual Abuse) Bill 2025 to the Federation Chamber for immediate debate. Debate ensued and an Assistant Minister made a brief contribution before moving that debate be adjourned. The Deputy Speaker upheld a point of order regarding standing order 79(a) which provides that only a member who has not spoken to the question (or who has the right of reply) may move the adjournment of a debate. The Shadow Attorney General then moved closure of debate which was negated on division. Time for debate having expired, the question that the motion be agreed to was put and negated on division.
- The Shadow Minister for Communications moved to suspend standing orders on 29 October and 5 November (see Digest 4.03).
- The Manager of Opposition Business moved to suspend standing orders so that all remaining stages of the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill be debated in the House on 4 November (see Digest 4.02).

On another two occasions suspension motions were interrupted (see Digest 4.10).

*Hansard: 28 October 2025, 2116-21
29 October 2025, 2232-3
4 November 2025, 2711-6*

5 November 2025, 2886-8

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/250-2; 262; 291-2; 309-10

SOs 47, 79, 81

4.10 Motions to call on government business immediately

On two occasions in the fortnight, while an opposition member was moving a suspension motion, a government minister sought the call and moved, under standing order 45(c), that a government order of the day be called on immediately.

On 29 October, the Shadow Attorney General began to state the terms of a suspension motion to refer the Crimes Amendment (Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Child Sexual Abuse) Bill 2025 to the Federation Chamber. The Leader of the House sought the call and moved that a government order of the day be called on. This was agreed to on division.

On 5 November, the Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment moved to suspend standing orders to refer the operations of the Administration of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union to the House Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations, Skills and Training for inquiry and report. After stating the terms of the motion, the Shadow Minister was speaking to the motion when an Assistant Minister sought the call and moved that a government order of the day be called on. This was agreed to on division.

A motion must be moved (and seconded if required) and the question stated before it is in the possession of the House. If a member is in the process of moving a motion, there is no question before the House.

Standing order 45(c) provides that when there is no question before the House, a minister may move, without notice, that a government business notice or order of the day be called on immediately.

Hansard: 29 October 2025, 2232-3

5 November 2025, 2886-8

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/262; 303

SOs 45, 47

4.11 Business of the day called on during MPI discussions

On 4 November, a matter of public importance on regional Australia was proposed and supported. The Leader of the House then moved that the business of the day be called on, which was agreed to on division.

On 6 November, a matter of public importance on housing was proposed and supported. The proposing member spoke to the matter for approximately three minutes before the Leader of the House sought the call and moved that the business of the day be called on. The motion was agreed to on division.

At any time during the discussion of a matter of public importance, any member may move that the business of the day be called on. The question is put immediately without amendment or debate and if agreed to, the business of the day is proceeded with immediately.

Hansard: 4 November 2025, 2745-6

6 November 2025, 3135-6

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/293-4; 345

SO 46

Private members' business

4.12 Members share speaking time

On 27 October, an opposition shadow minister and a crossbench member presented bills and chose to complete their speeches in time to allow the seconder to also speak before the time for debate expired:

- Crimes Amendment (Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Child Sexual Abuse) Bill 2025, introduced by the Member for Berowra who spoke for less than one minute before the Member for Fisher seconded the bill, and
- Lobbying (Improving Government Honesty and Trust) Bill 2025 (No. 2), introduced by the Member for Kooyong and seconded by the Member for Curtin.

The mover of a private members' bill is allowed up to 10 minutes for the second reading speech on presentation, and the Selection Committee may determine times for consideration of the remainder of the second reading debate.

Hansard: 27 October 2025, 1948-51

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/227

SO 41

Speaker

4.13 Changes to the Speaker's panel

On 4 November, the Speaker presented a warrant revoking the nomination of the Member for Groom to be a member of the Speaker's panel.

Hansard: 4 November 2025, 2744

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/293

SO 17

Statements

4.14 Statements on significant matters

During the period for statements on significant matters (Wednesdays and Thursdays immediately after prayers), statements were made relating to:

- Mental Health Month (29 October)
- Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission's yearly report to Parliament (30 October), and
- 50th anniversary of the Racial Discrimination Act (30 October).

In each case, a shadow minister or shadow assistant minister spoke in reply and the House resolved that further statements be permitted in the Federation Chamber.

Hansard: 29 October 2025, 2211-3

30 October 2025, 2397-405

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/257; 269

SOs 50A, 50B

Offensive words[#]

Offensive words or phrase	Date	Hansard page reference
'The current Minister ... is an enabler of corruption ...'	27 October	2039
'...we know that the minister is referred to as 'Blackout Bowen'...'	28 October	2140
'...which people nowadays are referring to as the 'Jimflation effect'?	30 October	2449
'This is the new 'Jimflation' effect.'	30 October	2460-1
'To call those opposite a clown show would be an insult to the hardworking clowns of Australia.'	30 October	2459
'...you lied...'	30 October	2463
'The bodies are piling up, and it's not pretty. Guess who's holding the gun? It's the energy minister of Australia.'	30 October	2464
'That's because there are cartel kickbacks that go from CFMEU public projects all the way through to connections to the Labor Party itself.'	3 November	2708
'... cartel kickbacks... They are then given over to the CFMEU to organised crime, to bikie gangs. And, yes, they are directly given over to officials and people directly connected to the Labor Party.'	3 November	2708-9
'...the very Neo-Nazis that those opposite fail to condemn...'	5 November	2920
'...egregious lie ... by the Leader of the Opposition.'	5 November	2922
'You are hopeless and a liar, lying to the Australian people.'	5 November	2923
'... bloody important.'	5 November	2936
'They talked a big game but delivered bugger-all...'	5 November	2938
'...flagrant, unconscionable LNP lying?'	6 November	3133

SOs 89, 90, 92

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