

# Procedural Digest

No. 8

48th Parliament

2 – 12 March 2026

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## Standing and sessional orders

### 8.01 Amendment to sessional order

On 2 March, the Leader of the House moved, by leave, amendments to sessional order 65A in relation to speaking opportunities for crossbench members such that:

- During Question Time, priority be given to:
  - a crossbench member seeking the call on the fifth, thirteenth, seventeenth, and twenty-first questions, and
  - an opposition member seeking the call on the first, third, seventh, ninth, eleventh, fifteenth, nineteenth, twenty-third, twenty-fifth, twenty-seventh and twenty-ninth questions
- During each period of members' statements in the House, priority be given to at least two crossbench members seeking the call
- During each period of members' statements in the Federation Chamber on Mondays, priority be given to at least four crossbench members seeking the call
- During each 30 minute period of members' constituency statements in the Federation Chamber, priority be given to at least one crossbench member seeking the call
- During each one hour period of members' constituency statements in the Federation Chamber, priority be given to at least two crossbench members seeking the call
- During grievance debate in the Federation Chamber, every Tuesday priority be given to a crossbench member seeking the call as the first speaker
- During adjournment debate in the House, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays priority be given to a crossbench member seeking the call as the first speaker, and
- During adjournment debate in the Federation Chamber, every Thursday priority be given to a crossbench member seeking the call as the first speaker.

Debate ensued and the question was put and passed.

The sessional order was previously amended on 3 February (see [Digest 7.02](#)). This latest amendment is in response to Nationals' parliamentary party members rejoining the Opposition, which reduces the crossbench proportion of non-government membership of the House.

*Hansard: 2 March 2026, P34-5*  
*Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/508-9*

**SOs 111, 65A**

## Members

### 8.02 Resignation of member and writ to be issued for Farrer by-election

On 2 March, the Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter of resignation from the Member for Farrer, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, on 27 February 2026 and that consideration was being given to possible dates for the by-election.

Subsequently on 5 March, the Speaker informed the House that he intended to issue a writ on 1 April 2026 for the election of a member to fill the vacancy in the electoral division of Farrer. He announced that the dates for the by-election would be fixed as follows:

Close of roll	Wednesday, 8 April
Close of nominations	Monday, 13 April
Date of polling	Saturday, 9 May
Return of writ	On or before Friday, 10 July

*Hansard: 2 March 2026, P52*

*5 March 2026, P20*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/512; 545*

### 8.03 Revised shadow ministry list presented

On 2 March, prior to the commencement of Question Time, the Leader of the Opposition presented a revised shadow ministry list reflecting changes announced on 17 February.

*Hansard: 2 March 2026, P52-4*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/512*

## Distinguished visitors

### 8.04 Prime Minister of Canada addresses Parliament

On 3 March, the Leader of the House, pursuant to notice, moved a motion to make arrangements for the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Mark Carney, to attend and address the House on 5 March. The motion, which was agreed to, provided for:

- the time for the House to meet being no earlier than 10.30 am
- the order of proceedings to be welcoming remarks by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and an address by the Prime Minister of Canada, followed by a suspension of the House until the ringing of the bells
- a message to be sent to the Senate inviting senators to attend the House as guests for the occasion, and standing order 257(c) relating to good order to apply during their visit in the Chamber and the galleries, and
- the Federation Chamber not meeting.

On 5 March, in accordance with the resolution, the House met at 10:32 am. Following the acknowledgment of country and prayers, the Speaker extended a welcome to the President of the Senate and senators as guests. The Prime Minister of Canada was then announced and escorted into the Chamber, where he was welcomed by the Speaker. Welcoming remarks were then made by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition before the Speaker

invited Prime Minister Carney to address the House. After the address, members and senators rose in their places and applauded, and the Speaker thanked Prime Minister Carney on behalf of the House. The Speaker also thanked the President of the Senate and senators for their attendance before inviting the Prime Minister to escort Prime Minister Carney from the Chamber. The sitting of the House was then suspended from 11:28 am to 12:30 pm.

*Standing order 257 relates to the admission of senators and visitors and, among other provisions, gives the Speaker the privilege of admitting distinguished visitors to have a seat on the floor of the Chamber. It also provides that senators, when present in the Chamber or galleries, must observe the Speaker's instructions regarding good order.*

Hansard: 3 March 2026, P1

5 March 2026, P1-6

Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/523; 539

**SO 257**

## Bills

### 8.05 Bill to provide for reviews of parliamentary workplace and resources legislation

On 4 March, the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, pursuant to notice, presented the Parliamentary Frameworks Legislation Amendment (Reviews) Bill 2026 and made a second reading speech. The bill provides for forthcoming statutory reviews of the *Parliamentary Workplace Support Service Act 2023*, the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*, and the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* to be combined as well as aligning the timing of future periodic reviews of the first two of these Acts. Following the second reading speech debate was adjourned.

Hansard: 4 March 2026, P3-5

Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/533

**SOs 141, 142**

### 8.06 Attempted introductions of private members' bills

On 3 March, during government business time, the Leader of the Opposition moved a motion, without notice, to suspend standing and sessional orders to introduce a bill to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995*. The motion to suspend standing orders was seconded and debate ensued before the question was put and negatived on division.

On 12 March, during government business time, a crossbench member moved a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders to resume debate on the Stopping Wind Farms in State Forests Bill 2025. The motion to suspend standing orders was seconded and debate ensued before the House divided and, with only three members voting 'Aye', the Speaker declared the question negatived in accordance with standing order 127.

*If a suspension motion is moved without notice, it can only be carried by an absolute majority of members, or by a majority of members present if agreed by the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business.*

Hansard: 3 March 2026, P1-6

12 March 2026, P12-14

Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/523-4; 567

**SOs 47, 127**

## 8.07 Suspension and closure motions during bill consideration

On 3 March, during the second reading debate on the Treasury Laws Amendment (Building a Stronger and Fairer Super System) Bill 2026, a shadow minister did not agree to debate the bill in cognate with the Superannuation (Building a Stronger and Fairer Super System) Imposition Bill 2026. Debate resumed on the first bill, before a minister moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to debate the bills in cognate. The motion was briefly debated before the Chief Government Whip moved closure of the question, which was agreed to on division. The motion to suspend standing orders was then agreed to on division with the concurrence of an absolute majority. The second reading debate on the bills proceeded in cognate.

*Hansard: 3 March 2026, P45-54  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/527-9*

**SOs 47, 81, 142**

## 8.08 Amendment to bill requiring appropriation of revenue ruled out of order

On 11 March, during consideration in detail of the Migration Amendment (2026 Measures No. 1) Bill 2026, an amendment circulated by a crossbench member sought to impose a compensation obligation on the Commonwealth. Before this amendment could be moved, the Deputy Speaker made a statement ruling the amendment out of order and unable to be moved as it would require the appropriation of revenue, hence being contrary to the constitutional and parliamentary principle of the financial initiative of the Crown and in contravention of standing order 180.

*Section 56 of the Constitution provides that a vote, resolution, or proposed law for the appropriation of revenue or moneys shall not be passed unless the purpose of the appropriation has in the same session been recommended by message of the Governor-General to the House in which the proposal originated. Since the Governor-General only acts on the advice of the government, this requirement effectively limits the initiation of any expenditure proposals to ministers.*

*Under standing order 180 all proposals for the appropriation of revenue or moneys require a message to the House from the Governor-General recommending the purpose of the appropriation in accordance with section 56 of the Constitution.*

*Hansard: 11 March 2026, P16  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/556*

**SOs 148, 150, 180**

## 8.09 Reconsideration of bill in detail

On 11 March, at the conclusion of consideration in detail of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Amendment Bill 2026, a crossbench member moved that the bill be reconsidered in detail. The question was put and passed and the member then moved an amendment. Debate ensued and the amendment was negated on division. Earlier that day the bill had been returned from the Federation Chamber with an unresolved question on a separate amendment proposed by another crossbench member.

*Standing order 154 provides that, before the third reading of a bill is moved, a member may move without notice that a bill be reconsidered in detail, in whole or in part, by the House.*

*Decisions in the Federation Chamber can only be made on the voices. If a single member dissents, the matter for decision becomes an unresolved question which is reported back to the House for resolution. Although it is common for the unresolved question to be reported in the House on the same or next sitting day, there is no time limit for reporting.*

*Hansard: 11 March 2026, P70-4; 126  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/559-60; 564*

**SOs 152, 153, 154, 195**

## Motions

### 8.10 Attempted motion to suspend standing orders not seconded

On 10 March, during government business time, a crossbench member was not granted leave to move a motion relating to Australian participation in the Middle East conflict. The member then moved to suspend standing orders to allow her to move the motion. The motion to suspend standing orders was not seconded and therefore lapsed.

*Standing order 116 requires that, unless otherwise provided (such as motions moved by ministers), a motion must be seconded and, if not seconded, must not be debated nor recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.*

*Hansard: 10 March 2026, P3-4*

**SOs 47, 116**

## Committees

### 8.11 Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests report

On 4 March, the Chair of the Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests presented the Committee's report recommending that a citizen's response to the remarks made about them in the Federation Chamber be incorporated in Hansard, in accordance with the House's resolution of 27 August 1997 establishing a citizen's right of reply.

*Hansard: 4 March 2026, P5  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/534*

**SOs 39, 216**

### 8.12 Passage of bill establishing new Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence

On 4 March, the Deputy Speaker reported a message from the Senate returning the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence) Bill 2025 without amendment. The bill, passed by the House on 5 November 2025 and then by the Senate on 4 March 2026, establishes the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Defence, which will have general oversight of Australian defence agencies (other than defence intelligence agencies).

*Hansard: 4 March 2026, P69  
Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/535*

**SO 261**

## Speaker

### 8.13 Question to Speaker – Register of Members' Interests

On 4 March, following a personal explanation, a member asked a question to the Speaker relating to the timing of the publication of amendments to the Register of Members' Interests. On 5 March the Speaker reported back to the member that procedures had not changed.

*The Register of Members' Interests places on the public record members' interests which may conflict, or may be seen to conflict, with their public duty. Matters which members are required to register are set out in a resolution of the House of Representatives.*

Hansard: 4 March 2026, P60

5 March 2026, P35

**SOs 68, 103, 216**

### 8.14 Changes to Speaker's panel

On 5 March, the Speaker presented a warrant pursuant to standing order 17:

- revoking the nomination of the Member for Forrest (Mr Benjamin Small) to be a member of the Speaker's panel, and
- nominating the Member for Wright (Mr Scott Buchholz) 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. It is usual that members of the Speaker's Panel are not ministers or part of the opposition executive.*

Hansard: 5 March 2026, P35

Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/545

**SO 17**

## Statements

### 8.15 Facilitation of debate on Annual Climate Change ministerial statement

On 4 March, a minister moved, by leave, to suspend standing and sessional orders to enable debate on a motion for the House to take note of the Annual Climate Change Statement 2025 in the Federation Chamber to extend for more than one hour. The question was put and passed.

The Annual Climate Change Statement was made by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy on 27 November 2025, and a motion that the House take note of the document was referred to the Federation Chamber on the same day.

*Under standing order 1, the maximum time for the whole debate on a motion to take note of a document (which falls under 'Other debates – not otherwise provided for') is one hour.*

Hansard: 4 March 2026, P72; 139-50

27 November 2025, 4238-42

Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/535; 2025/400

**SOs 1, 47, 63A, 202**

## 8.16 Statements of condolence

Over the sitting fortnight a number of statements of condolence were made:

- On 3 March, the Speaker informed the House of the death of the Hon Ronald (Ron) Leslie Doyle Boswell AO, a senator for Queensland from 1983 to 2014. All members present stood in their places as a mark of respect.
- On 5 March, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition made statements, by indulgence, on the death of Mr Dennis John Cometti AM, a sports commentator.
- On 5 March also, the Minister for Sport and Communications, by indulgence, made a statement on the death of Mrs Judi O’Dea.
- On 10 March, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition made statements, by indulgence, on the death of Mr Leslie (Les) Cook, a World War II veteran. All members present stood in their places as a mark of respect.

*In most circumstances, the death of a former member or senator who did not hold certain offices is marked with a statement by the Speaker without a condolence motion being moved. Sometimes members have made statements of condolence by indulgence. Members are also able to refer to the deaths of former members at another time, such as during the adjournment debate.*

*Hansard: 3 March 2026, P20*

*5 March 2026, P19-20; 50*

*10 March 2026, P35*

*Votes and Proceedings: 2025-26/525*

## 8.17 Statements by indulgence

On 2 March, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition both made statements by indulgence on the Milano Cortina Winter Olympic Games. On 2, 4, and 10 March, during Question Time, the Prime Minister answered questions without notice on matters relating to Iran and the Middle East. The Leader of the Opposition then made statements by indulgence associating the Opposition with the Prime Minister’s remarks.

Several other statements were made by indulgence over the sitting fortnight:

- On 2 March, before Question Time, the Prime Minister made a statement by indulgence to congratulate the newly-elected Leader of the Opposition and to acknowledge the service of the former Leader of the Opposition.
- On 3 March, during Question Time, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government made a statement by indulgence acknowledging a visitor in the public gallery during an answer to a question without notice.
- On 11 March, during Question Time, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Arts, Cyber Security, and Immigration and Citizenship answered a question without notice relating to the Iranian Women’s National Football Team. The Leader of the Opposition then made a statement by indulgence associating the Opposition with the Minister’s remarks.
- On 11 March also, during government business, the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia made a statement by indulgence clarifying a figure she had provided earlier during consideration in detail of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Amendment Bill 2026.

*Hansard: 2 March 2026, 54-5; 56-7*

3 March 2026, P26  
4 March 2026, P47  
10 March 2026, P23  
11 March 2026, P48-9; 74

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

Nil.

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

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