



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Procedure report:

Maintenance of the Standing Orders – Final Report

May 2024

Recommendation 1

That SO 209(c) be amended as follows:

The Chair of the Petitions Committee shall announce any ministerial responses to petitions. After the announcement, ministerial responses shall be printed in Hansard and published on the House's website. The Petitions Committee may authorise the publication of a ministerial response prior to presentation to the House, and it must then be presented at the first available opportunity.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 2

That SO 4(h) and SO 4(i) be amended as follows:

(h) The Prime Minister or another Minister shall inform the House the time when the Governor-General will receive ~~the Members of the House and the~~ Speaker.

(i) Before any business of the House, the Speaker, ~~leading other Members,~~ shall present himself or herself to the Governor-General at the appointed time. The Speaker and Members shall then return to the House. The Speaker shall resume the Chair and report to the House.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that SO 144 be amended to read:

144 Report on bill referred to committee

When a standing or select committee has presented a report on a bill, the Member in charge of the bill ~~shall~~ may move a motion without notice to set a time for the consideration in detail of the bill.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that SO 193 be amended to read:

... The period for Members' constituency statements may continue for 30 minutes, or longer if agreed, irrespective of suspensions for divisions in the House.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that SO 80 be amended to read:

80 Closure of a Member speaking

If a Member is speaking, other than when ~~giving a notice of motion or~~ moving the terms of a motion, another Member may move—

That the Member be no longer heard.

The question must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends that SO 78(1) be amended to read:

78 Matters not open to debate

...

(1) motion that further proceedings on a bill or order of the day be conducted in the House (standing order 197);

...

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends that SO 232 be amended with the addition of the following section:

(c) Appointments of Chair and deputy Chair made before a committee's first meeting are deemed to take effect from the date of the committee's first meeting. All other appointments of Chair and deputy Chair are deemed to take effect from the date of the appointment letter or the date of that Member's appointment to the committee, whichever is the later.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends that SOs 1, 2, 100, 215, 222 and 222A be amended to replace 'non-aligned Member(s)' with an alternative term, such as 'cross-bench Member(s)'.

Australian Government Response

The standing orders now refer to 'crossbench Members' rather than 'non-aligned Members' throughout. On 27 July 2022, amendments were made to standing order 2 and other relevant standing orders to change 'non-aligned Members' to 'crossbench Members'.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends that Clerk's amendments be made to the standing orders as outlined in Appendix B.

Australian Government Response

The Government notes the recommendation from the Committee. The Government has made changes to the Standing Orders on 27 July 2022, 5 September 2022, 8 September 2022 and 30 March 2023.