



Standing Orders

The Standing Orders are the rules used to govern all aspects of the operation of the Legislative Assembly. They are made by the Assembly under the authority of section 30 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* (Cth).

In what circumstances are Standing Orders suspended?

Departures from Standing Orders may occur with leave, provided there is unanimous consent. One dissenting voice means leave is not granted.

When leave is either unlikely to be granted or has been refused, a Member may move for Standing Orders to be suspended to enable a course of action to be followed. This requires the agreement of a majority of the Members. If such a motion is moved *without* notice, it requires the agreement of an absolute majority of the whole Assembly (13 Members). *With* notice, it requires a majority of the Members present in the Chamber.

If a motion to suspend Standing Orders is moved during the consideration of a matter, it must be relevant to the matter. For example, if the Assembly is considering a bill, a Member may not move to suspend Standing Orders to bring on another item.

What is the effect of suspending Standing Orders?

Standing Orders may be suspended only for the particular purpose mentioned in the motion. For example, if Standing Orders are suspended to allow a committee to be established to examine a bill, a Member may not take the opportunity to rearrange business. The only Standing Orders suspended are those which would prevent an action occurring. All other Standing Orders, such as those relating to the rules of debate or disorderly conduct, continue to apply.

For the Standing and Sessional Orders see: parliament.nt.gov.au/business/standing-and-sessional-orders

SUMMARY

Standing Orders may be suspended for a particular purpose. The only Standing Orders suspended are those which would prevent an action occurring. All other Standing Orders continue to apply.