



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Standing Orders Committee

Third Report of the 11th Assembly including

Report to the Assembly on the Reference to the Committee
dated 18 August 2009
Questions, Time Limits, Processes and Estimates

November 2009

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the Northern Territory
November 2009

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Standing Orders Committee

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Members of the Committee as at November 2009

Dr Chris Burns MLA - Chairman
The Honourable Jane Aagaard MLA
Mr Matt Conlan MLA
Mr Michael Gunner MLA
Mr Peter Styles MLA
Mr Gerry Wood MLA

Committee Secretariat

Mr Ian McNeill, Secretary
Ms Jane Gunner, Research/Administrative Officer

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Membership of the committee at the time of tabling of the Report:

Dr Chris Burns MLA

Appointed 10 February 2009
Australian Labor Party
Member for Johnston: First elected 18 August 2001
Leader of Government Business
Minister for Business
Minister for Tourism
Minister for Trade
Minister for Asian Relations
Minister for Defence Support
Other Committees: Members' Interests

The Honourable Jane Aagaard MLA

Appointed 9 September 2008
Australian Labor Party
Member for Nightcliff: First elected 18 August 2001
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Other Committees: Members' Interests, House, Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Mr Matthew Conlan MLA

Appointed 9 September 2008
Country Liberal Party
Member for Grotorex: First elected 28 July 2007
Other Committees: Members' Interests

Mr Michael Gunner MLA

Appointed 9 September 2008
Australian Labor Party
Member for Fannie Bay: First elected 9 August 2008
Government Whip
Other Committees: Public Accounts, Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Subordinate Legislation and Publications, Environment and Sustainable Development, Council of Territory Cooperation

Mr Peter Styles MLA

Appointed 9 September 2008
Country Liberal Party
Member for Sanderson: First elected: 9 August 2008
Other Committees: Members' Interests, Environment and Sustainable Development

Mr Gerry Wood MLA

Appointed 20 August 2009
Independent
Member for Nelson: First elected 18 August 2001
Other Committees: Public Accounts, Publications, Environment and Sustainable Development and The Council of Territory Cooperation

Recommendations

1. The Standing Orders Committee recommends the following changes to Standing Orders:

- (a) That Standing Orders be amended to allow that the asking of each question during Questions shall not exceed one minute and the answering of each question shall not exceed three minutes and that the global time for Questions be approximately one hour.
- (b) That Standing Orders be amended to allow the Leader of the Opposition ask one supplementary question which shall not exceed 30 seconds each Question Time and that the answering of the supplementary question shall not exceed one minute.
- (c) That Standing Orders 113 and 109 be amended to include a stronger 'relevance clause' in the Standing Orders by including the terms "direct, succinct and concise" in respect to answers provided by Ministers to questions without notice and questions to Ministers.
- (d) That Standing Orders be amended to provide for a 30 day time limit for responses by Ministers to questions 'on notice' or written questions to Ministers and if not answered within 30 days an explanation be given to the Member asking the Question.
- (e) That Standing Orders be amended to provide that General Business be given precedence to Government Business on each Wednesday of each sitting week from 5.30pm to 9pm commencing from the first sitting period in 2010.

2. The Standing Orders Committee recommends:

- (a) That there be a review of the Estimates Committee hearing process including scheduling, length of time of Minister's appearances, length of questions and to a limited number of questions being asked of all agencies being submitted as written questions to be distributed to agencies with agencies tabling the answers.
- (b) The review of the Estimates Committee hearing process to commence in 2010.

3. The Standing Orders Committee noted the following Resolutions of the Assembly:

- (a) Amendment to Standing Order 77 to extend the speech time limit on the Adjournment Debate to 10 minutes for each Member, dated Monday 12 October 2009.
- (b) Amendment to Standing Order 41A(a) to extend the time for the automatic adjournment of the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to 10.30, dated 12 October 2009.

4. The Standing Orders Committee agreed:

That an additional sitting week be included in the sitting schedule instead of Monday sitting days in February, August and October.

Reference to the Standing Orders Committee, dated 18 August 2009

Introduction

When the Legislative Assembly met on Tuesday 18 August 2009 the following reference was debated and agreed to:

That, the following matters be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for report no later than the November sittings:

Questions

- Time limits on asking and answering questions
- Either a set number of questions from the opposition and other non-government members or a percentage of questions from non-government members
- The automatic right to a supplementary question from non-government questioners
- Question Time be moved to an earlier hour
- Implementing a stronger 'relevance' clause in the Standing Orders in respect to answers provided by Ministers to questions without notice
- Questioning of participants to parliamentary agreements

Time Limits

- The adjournment debate speech time limit be lifted to 10 minutes
- Removal of sitting time limitations
- Establishment of time limits for responses to questions 'on notice' or written questions to Ministers

Processes

- Removal of the ability to move the 'put' motion mid speech
- The Standing Orders be amended to reflect the requirement of the Speaker to recall parliament if petitioned by a majority of MLAs.
- General Business be allocated time in each sitting week

Estimates

- Estimates process to be reviewed and reformed so as to significantly extend the hours provided for questioning including investigation of questioning to exhaustion
- Provide the ability to directly question public servants in the estimates process, with the Minister present, on matters of expenditure and programmes progress and outcomes

Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to provide a submission to the reference. Submissions were received from:

- Dr Chris Burns MLA on behalf of Government Members
- Mr Peter Styles MLA and Mr Matt Conlan MLS on behalf of the Country Liberals
- Mr Gerry Wood MLA

A copy of the submissions are at Attachment A.

The Secretary of the Estimates Committee, Mr Terry Hanley provided a paper relating to the item on the Estimates Committee process, a copy is at Attachment B.

The Committee at its meeting on 14 October 2009 considered the submissions and the Reference item by item.

Summary of Items Considered

QUESTIONS

- **Time Limits on asking and answering questions**

It was agreed by the majority of the Committee that the asking of each question during Question Time shall not exceed one minute and the answering of each question shall not exceed three minutes and that the global time for Question Time be approximately one hour.

- **The automatic right to a supplementary question from non-government questioners**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that the Leader of the Opposition may ask one supplementary question which shall not exceed 30 seconds each Question Time and the answering of the supplementary question shall not exceed one minute.

- **Either a set number of questions from the Opposition and other non-government members or a percentage of questions from non-government members**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that there be no recommendation to change to the existing arrangements.

- **Question time to be moved to an earlier hour**

A majority of Committee members agreed that Question time remain scheduled immediately after Notices, at 2pm.

- **Implementing a stronger 'relevance' clause in the Standing Orders in respect to answers provided by a Minister to questions without notice**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that a stronger 'relevance clause' be included in the Standing Orders by including the terms "direct, succinct and concise" in respect to answers

provided by Ministers to questions without notice and questions to Ministers.

- **Questioning of participants to parliamentary agreements**

The majority of Committee members agreed that there be no questioning of participants to parliamentary agreements.

TIME LIMITS

- **The adjournment debate speech time limit be increased to 10 minutes**

The Committee noted that a motion to amend Standing Order 77 to extend the speech time limit on the Adjournment Debate to 10 minutes for each Member was passed by the Assembly on Monday 12 October 2009.

- **Removal of sitting time limitations**

The Committee noted that a motion to amend Standing Order 41A(a) to extend the time for the automatic adjournment of the Assembly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to 10.30 was passed by the Assembly on Monday 12 October 2009.

- **Establish time limits for responses to questions 'on notice' or written questions to Ministers**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that Standing Orders be amended to provide for a 30 day time limit for responses by Ministers to written questions and questions 'on notice' to Ministers and, if not answered within 30 days an explanation be given to the Member asking the question.

PROCESSES

- **Removal of the ability to move the 'put' (closure) motion mid speech (Standing Order 78)**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that no change be made to Standing Order 78.

- **The Standing Orders be amended to reflect the requirement of the Speaker to recall parliament if petitioned by a majority of MLAs.**

It was noted that Standing Orders do not presently provide guidance in this matter and a majority of Committee members agreed to not recommend any change.

- **General Business be allocated time in each sitting week**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that Standing Orders be amended to provide that General Business be given precedence of Government Business on each Wednesday of a sitting week from 5.30pm to 9pm, commencing from the first sitting period in 2010.

ESTIMATES

- **Estimates process to be reviewed and reformed so as to significantly extend the hours provided for questioning including the investigation of questioning to exhaustion.**
- **Provide the ability to directly question public servants in the estimates process with the Minister present, on matters of expenditure and programmes progress and outcomes.**

It was agreed by a majority of the Committee that there be a review of the Estimates Committee hearing process scheduling, length of time of Minister's appearances, length of questions and to a limited number of questions being asked of all agencies being submitted as written questions to be distributed to agencies with agencies tabling the answers. The review of the Estimates Committee hearing process to commence in 2010.

- **Additional 2 weeks of sittings each year**

A majority of Committee members agreed that an additional sitting week be included in the sitting schedule instead of Monday sitting days in February, August and October.

It was noted that a proposed 2010 sitting schedule including an extra sitting week was tabled by the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly on 21 October 2009.

Country Liberals Minority Report



Mr Ian McNeill
Clerk
Northern Territory Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Ian

RE: Country Liberals Minority Report to Standing Orders Committee November 2009

The Country Liberals will continue to raise matters that will see a greater level of accountability and effectiveness of the Parliamentary system. We are obviously disappointed the Independent Member for Nelson and the Government have not supported the very modest proposals we outlined in our original reference and supporting material.

While we acknowledge there have been a number of changes agreed to by the committee, we note that these were minimal and do not bring about the fundamental reforms required to improve the function of Parliament. Government has made it clear it will do the bare minimum and no more. We take a very different view and as such will work to bring about further change.

It should be remembered we have brought forward a number of our proposed changes previously. In particular, more needs to be done in relation to Question Time and Estimates as outlined below.

Question Time:

The Opposition remains firmly of the view that Question Time should be moved to 11am and will continue to seek to push for that change. The remainder of the day could then focus on Government or General Business.

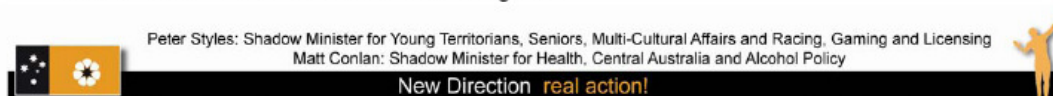
The Opposition remains of the view that the Government's failure to agree to this change is related to its desire to avoid a full day of media scrutiny and, as such, we will continue to fight for further openness and accountability in the Parliament.

While some changes were made to limitations within Question Time, the Opposition holds the view that the relatively small number of sitting days makes it imperative there be Supplementary Questions on all non-Government questions as well as a set number of questions for Government and non-Government members.

We believe time limits will improve relevancy. However without a set number of questions – we propose 10 for each side – and with only one supplementary question, the capacity for proper scrutiny is severely restricted. We will continue to advocate for more questions.

Additional Sitting Days:

While an additional sitting week has been put in place, the abandonment of Monday sitting days means there will be no real increase in sitting time.



The Opposition believes this is a deliberate ploy by Government to create an impression there is extra time for scrutiny. We are dissatisfied there is only one additional sitting week and will continue to advocate for more.

Processes:

There was no change to Standing Orders in relation to the mid-speech 'gag' and the removal of the 'gag' provision at the third reading speech. In our original submission we set out that the mid-speech 'gag' should be removed and that there should be no 'gag' provision at the third reading. Our view remains that if there is a third reading speech, it is by definition of such importance that it shouldn't be gagged. We will continue to seek these changes.

We are disappointed the Standing Orders weren't changed to allow for the Speaker to recall parliament following a petition of a majority of members. This should be undertaken immediately and not be left to convention. We will seek a specific change to the Standing Orders.

While General Business has been moved to 3.5 hours each Wednesday, we believe this offers insufficient time for debate. The Opposition wants to see General Business commence after Question Time or following a Wednesday Censure Motion. We will continue to seek changes to this and will closely monitor the effectiveness of the new changes.

Estimates:

Estimates has been sent for review and we will fully participate in this review process. The supporting material that was provided on this issue shows that we lag other jurisdictions in respect to both the effectiveness of structure and the time provided.

We will also seek direct questioning of public servants, as set out in our original submission. We want to ensure appropriate time is provided for portfolio areas along with the capacity for Supplementary Questions. We operate a unicameral system in the Northern Territory and as such we need to ensure the scrutiny of Money Bills is comprehensive.

Adjournment:

We welcome the change to Adjournment times and the removal of the time cap on Adjournments. The capacity for the Speaker to vet speeches needs to be removed and in its place an informal agreement be introduced for the incorporation of speeches by the Whips as set out in our original submission.

We remain of the view that a formal process that gives the Speaker this authority is an unacceptable intrusion by the Speaker into freedom of speech.

In summary the Government has made some changes, but in each instance has done enough to offer the pretence of greater scrutiny – but in practice it has done little. The people expect Government to be scrutinised and the current changes do not reflect that expectation.

Yours Sincerely,



Peter Styles
Member for Sanderson



Matt Conlan
Member for Greatorex

20 November 2009

**PROCEDURAL REVIEW OF QUESTIONS, SPEECH TIME LIMITS
AND BUSINESS PROCESSES—REFERENCE FROM THE ASSEMBLY
DATED 18 AUGUST 2009**

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

1.	Hon Chris Burns MLA, Leader of Government Business on behalf of Government
2.	Mr Peter Styles MLA and Mr Matt Conlan MLS on behalf of the Country Liberals
3.	Mr Gerry Wood MLA

**Attachment A—Submissions to Reference to the Standing Orders Committee
dated 18 August 2009**



HON CHRIS BURNS MLA
Leader of Government Business

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Mr Ian McNeill
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

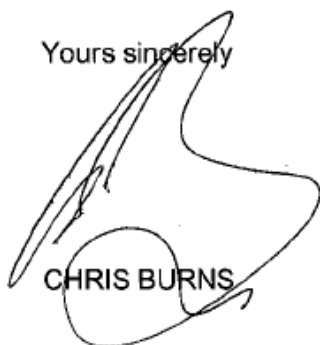
Dear Mr McNeill

Thank you for your recent request for a submission on a current reference to the Standing Orders Committee.

Government members have had some discussions on these matters and support some of the proposals. There is a general view however that a number of measures require further detail, investigation and discussion.

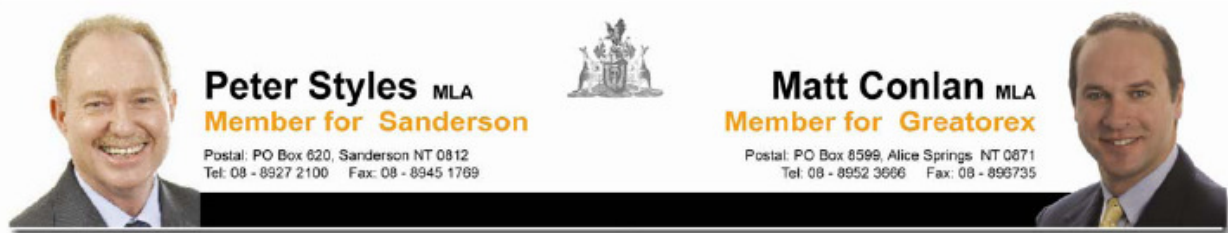
In this context, Government will not be providing a formal, detailed submission to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



CHRIS BURNS

21/9/09



Mr Ian McNeill
Clerk
Northern Territory Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Ian,

Re: Country Liberals Submission to Standing Orders Committee Parliamentary Reform

The Country Liberals have been pursuing Parliamentary reform for sometime.

The measures put forward here should be looked at as the beginning of the process, albeit a substantial beginning, but just the beginning nonetheless. Other measures should also be considered and a review of the effectiveness of those implemented undertaken no later than 12 months from now.

It is interesting to note that much was said by now members of the Federal Labor front bench about the need to reform the operations of Parliament and in particular Question Time. Those promised reforms appear to have fallen by the wayside now that they are in Government. The position and reforms that are being put forward here by the Country Liberals are ones that we committed to in Opposition and Government.

Our proposed measures are sensible and targeted at improving the openness and accountability of the parliamentary system and along with other measures relating to research and media monitoring, are designed to lift the standard of political debate: something that is urgently needed in our parliamentary system. A recent report undertaken in Queensland showed us to be the worst performer in respect to Government accountability.

The reference to this Committee was to look at; question time; estimates; general members business; debates and adjournments; orders of the day; and the number of sitting days. The proposals and some arguments supporting these proposals will be look at in turn.

Parliamentary Reform

Question Time

Question time should result in genuine scrutiny of the Government of the day. What has happened, unfortunately, is that it has become almost like 'Statement time'. Rarely are questions genuinely answered. During the last Sittings, questions about SIHIP had to be asked repeatedly due to the Government's failure to answer the specific questions about funding and outcomes. Later we learnt the answers were known. This debases the Assembly and our democracy.

The standing order that looks at relevance relies on House of Representatives practice of the Speaker directing Ministers to answer questions. This provision is far too broad and highly ineffectual. We propose that the Assembly Standing Orders are amended to include a direct relevance provision which the Speaker can use to direct Ministers to answer the question.

A stronger relevance provision will result in a higher level of scrutiny during Question Time and hence, better outcome for Territorians.

As a unicameral system that sits on a limited number of days, the number of questions put to the Government is quite small. We therefore propose that the time for asking and answering questions be limited. This means that along with tighter relevance provisions, Ministers will have to answer questions specifically and faster. It also provides less time for Government filibustering. To this end we propose the following:

- limit the length of questions to 1 minute and answers to 3 minutes;
- introduce a system of supplementary questions limited at 30 seconds and answers at 60 seconds; and
- ensure the Opposition asks a minimum of 10 questions during Question Time – not including Supplementary Questions.

The use of supplementary questions has been a long standing practice of the Senate and allows for the questioner to seek again a response on a specific issue if the Minister has failed to address it and for further scrutiny if the Minister has provided an answer that opens up a new area needing clarification.

While dixer are a standing practice of Government, and we are not looking to remove this opportunity for the Government, we do not believe there is a need for supplementary question on dixer. The reasoning here is that responses on dixer are prepared well in advance, thus the use of a supplementary will add little to the original answers.

These proposed time limits prevent Oppositions from asking overly long questions whilst giving the Government a reasonable amount of time to respond. Putting in place a limit on the number of questions provides everyone with certainty. Of the 10 questions, at least 2 would be allocated to Independents. This is a reasonable breakdown of time based on the number of non-Government members in the Assembly.

Estimates

Estimates provides the only real opportunity to scrutinise the money Bills of the Government. At the moment the time allocated is insufficient and unbalanced regarding the relative importance of various portfolios. As such, we request that there is more time available for Estimates and that the more important portfolios are allocated more time for scrutiny.

Another issue is that Ministers tend to consume large amounts of time making political statements and studiously avoiding answering questions. The Senate has long allowed the practice of senior public servants fronting Estimates to be questioned directly. This is done with the Minister present, and in doing so provides a more efficient use of time for asking and answering of questions. In turn the Minister can intervene if the public servant faces unreasonable questioning. We are advocating adoption of a similar model.

There is a high level of frustration within the public service of the Northern Territory from the fact that they prepare large amounts of material that simply does not get dealt with due to the inefficient operation of Estimates. A prime example of this from the last Estimates Hearings was that of the Deputy Chief Minister. Minister Lawrie was not questioned in any meaningful manner in respect to Infrastructure and Planning due to time being taken up by Treasury, which itself had to be cut short. Many other examples could be given.

General Business

At the moment General Business is dealt with every 12 parliamentary sitting days or so. Hence GB operates on just two or three days a year. This results in many important issues not being adequately dealt with.

We have previously offered alternatives to the current arrangements, and believe that change must occur. We favour a model that puts in place a number of hours each sitting week to deal with General Business. Whilst General Business is for all members, it is particularly important for non-government members. Given more than half the Chamber is made up of non-government members a far greater amount of parliamentary time should be devoted to General Business.

We recommend Thursday afternoon be devoted to General Business in each sitting week.

Debates and Adjournments;

The 'gag' motion is something that has been used heavily by the current government to cut short debate. While we understand that there are times that debates need to be expedited, it is undemocratic, and should be done sparingly. This is especially true when it is done during mid speech. We recommend that the Standing Orders be clarified so as to prevent a person being gagged mid-speech. This courtesy should be easy for the Government to adopt.

We would also like the Committee to consider removing the ability for the 'gag' to be applied to third reading speeches or for time on third reading speeches to be removed. Third reading speeches are rare, and are only used when there is a very important point to be made. Removing the ability to either 'gag' debate or removing the time restraints will ensure views at the end of the legislative process can be properly ventilated.

In respect to the Adjournment Debate, we were willing to meet the Government halfway in respect of the time for Adjournment speeches. We would prefer 15 minute Adjournment speeches but are willing to support a 10 minute limit. The current 5 minutes limit is unduly restrictive. This is the time when local members get to recognise their constituents or raise matters dear to them.

Further requiring parliamentarians to present an advance copy of an adjournment, for which incorporation into Hansard will be sought, to the Speaker is an outrageous imposition on freedom of speech in the Parliament. This requirement for approval from the Speaker should be removed and in its place a 'gentlemen's' agreement between the Whips should exist for the incorporation of speeches.

Orders of the Day

The current Government moved Question Time from the morning to the afternoon to minimise media scrutiny. In its place they put in the farce that was Ministerial Reports, or in effect Question Time in reverse. We are pleased to see the back of Ministerial Reports, however, believe very strongly that Question Time should be brought on earlier in the day. We recommend that Question Time is held at 11.00am each sitting day.

We also believe that the time limits on sittings days should be removed. If Parliament has a large volume of work to do one day, and if there are a larger number of speakers to an issue, than they should not be curtailed due to time restrictions. The Parliament operated effectively without time restrictions in the past and should do so again. Simply put, the Parliament should work for as long as it needs and when it is finished it should go home. This may be early or this may be late. The issue is getting the job done.

The Number of Sitting Days

The Territory Parliament sits far too infrequently. As a consequence, the Government avoids proper scrutiny on many issues of public importance. An additional two week's Sittings is needed. An increase in General Business days adds further weight to the need for more sitting days.

Summary

The Country Liberals have brought forward modest practical changes that will improve the effectiveness and accountability of the Territory Parliament.

The Northern Territory deserves an open and accountable Government and a Parliamentary system that puts the interests of our community first.

Territorians want a Government where the elected representatives make decisions and are accountable for those decisions.

Over the past eight years, Labor has debased democracy by:

- gagging scrutiny of Government legislation;
- manipulating Parliament for the Government's own political purposes; and
- wasting time through filibustering in Question Time and Ministerial Reports

The objective of the Country Liberals is to restore integrity, accountability and transparency into decision making.

Parliament is the House of the people. It is the place where decisions that affect the daily lives of all Territorians are made and hence where significant debate should take place.

Question Time and the Estimates process play a crucial role in the function of democracy. They ensure Government is accountable for its actions.

Over the past eight years the Territory Labor Government has moved to shut down Parliament as a place of debate and review. Members have been gagged when they attack Government, while Ministers have been given free rein.

The Country Liberals believe that the integrity of Parliament must be restored. More can be done to ensure rigorous and robust debate and more can be done to be inclusive of the community.

Yours sincerely,



MATT CONLAN

23 September 2009



PETER STYLES



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

GERRY WOOD MLA
Independent Member for Nelson

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Ian McNeil
 Secretary, Standing Orders Committee
 GPO Box 3721
 Darwin NT 0801

REF: 09/43

Dear Ian

I would appreciate the following comments on the reference by John Elferink, MLA going to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration at the next meeting on 28 September 2009.

QUESTIONS Time limits:	Question 1 minute Answer 3 minutes Total number of questions 20, removing 1 hour limit Supplementary questions not included in 20
Allocation of Questions:	2 Non-government questions to 1 government Question, total: 12 Non-government questions 3 Independent questions 5 Government questions
Supplementary Questions:	Allowed but at discretion of the Speaker
Question Time:	I'm not fussed when Question Time is scheduled
Relevance in Answers:	Interpretation of relevance to be tightened in accordance with what the average person would believe is the meaning of relevance
Questions on Agreements:	Questions to go to Chief Minister

TIME LIMITS	
Adjournment Debate:	I agree with 10 minutes per speaker and allow it to run out
Sitting Times:	Time extended to 10pm if needed
Response Time:	I would need further information on 'on notice' questions to comment 30 days from date of receiving written question for a response
'put' Motion:	Leave as is
Recall of Parliament:	Leave the decision to be made by the Speaker or maybe a ¾ majority (for discussion)
General Business:	1 day per sittings, maximum 6 hours
ESTIMATES	
Review:	I certainly support a review and suggest weightings be given to Departments so sufficient time is allocated and the review will cover the suggestion of questions directly to Departmental CEOs

Yours sincerely

mmwoke
for GERRY WOOD

Attachment B—Estimates Committee Process, Paper by Mr Terry Hanley, Secretary of the Estimates Committee

BRIEFING PAPER

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

- (a) Extension of Hours of Questioning**
- (b) Questioning of Public Servants**

In the Assembly on Tuesday 18th August 2009 a proposed reference to the Standing Orders Committee was debated and it was agreed that the following two items relating to the Estimates Committee hearing process be included:

the extension of hours for questioning; and

the proposal to allow direct questioning of public servants in the Estimates process on matters of expenditure and program's progress and outcomes.

BACKGROUND

On Thursday the 23rd May 2002 the Leader of Government Business moved

that the assembly appoint an Estimates Committee of the Legislative Assembly for the purposes of examining and reporting on the estimates of proposed expenditure contained in the appropriation Bill 2000-03

In addressing the issue of sitting times the motion advised:

unless otherwise ordered by the committee, when the committee is sitting on any day:

- (a) it commences at 9:00.am. and suspends at 12:30 pm. unless otherwise ordered;*
- (b) it commences at 2:00 pm. and is suspended or adjourned at 6:30 pm., unless otherwise ordered; and*
- (c) if required, it commences at 7:30 pm. and adjourns at a time to be fixed by the committee, unless otherwise ordered.*

In addressing the motion the Leader of Government Business made it clear that both the Queensland and Tasmanian models would appear to offer a scale that most approximated that of the Northern Territory Assembly.

He also advised

.....it is the model we think is right we believe is right. It is premature to lock into legislation in the first step before the Parliament has had time to give it a go in practice..... we do not want to take that step until a Parliament has been through it and we are sure that the Public Accounts Committee could then have another look at any deficiencies that it may have to that end the motion includes provision for a report to Parliament following this year's process.

Members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) took the decision to travel to Tasmania in early June 2002 as the Estimates Committee in that jurisdiction was scheduled to sit during that period.

In the PAC's report tabled in the Assembly on 20th June 2002 it incorporated issues of concern arising from Members observation of the Tasmanian Estimates Committee process and a review of the terms of reference tabled on the 23rd May 2002. In its report the Committee expressed concern at the appropriateness of an open ended session and no fixed overall timeframe to complete the process.

It pointed out that the Tasmanian committee normally operated a set of 3 x 3 hour sessions with a prescribed finishing time, of:

9:30 am. to 12:30 pm.;
2:30 pm. to 5:30 pm.; and
7:30 pm. to 10:30 pm.

with a written approach being required prior to the luncheon adjournment if there was a requirement to utilise the time set aside for an evening session.

The inaugural Northern Territory Estimates Committee public hearings were held over three days:

Tuesday 17th September (11:00am to 11:55pm);
Wednesday 18th September (9:00am to 00:20am next day); and
Thursday 19th September (9:00am to 6:40pm)

a total sitting time of **36.5 hours**. There was no time frame for the scheduling of Ministers appearance and it is noted in Hansard that the Chief Minister was questioned for a period of **17 hours**.

The Standing Orders Committee called for submissions after the public hearings as part of a review of the process. The Committee's report tabled on the 19th February 2003 recommended that the sittings for the upcoming Estimates Committee public hearings be extended by an additional day and operate from Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th June 2003. It also recommended that the committee sit between the hours of 9:00 am. and 11:30 pm. each day with a one-hour break for lunch and dinner, with the proviso that on Friday 27th the public hearing be completed by late afternoon to enable the Assembly to pass the remaining stages during the Friday evening/night.

In the debate that followed the tabling of this report most members supported the increase in hours although the member for Nelson Mr Jerry Wood did raise the issue of Government considering the option in the Tasmanian model where breaks throughout the day that were not the scheduled lunch/dinner breaks were added on to the finishing time for the day.

In considering the structure for the 2003 Estimates Committee public hearing process the Estimates Committee introduced a set timeframe for the appearance of individual Ministers and in doing so adopted the following schedule for those hearings:

Tuesday 24th of June 2003

Speaker **2 hours**;
Treasurer **7 hours**;
Chief Minister **4.5 hours**;

Wednesday 25th of June

Minister Toyne **4 .5 hours**;
Mr Henderson **4.5 hours**;
Minister Ah Kit **4.5 hours**;

Thursday 26th of June

Minister Aagaard **4.5 hours**;
Minister Vatskalis **4.5 hours**;

Friday 27th of June

Minister Burns **4.5 hours**

A combined total of **40.5 hours**.

Estimates Committee public hearings for 2004 and 2005 were both conducted within **40.5 hours**.

In 2006 with the appointment of an additional Minister the total hours for the public hearings were extended by 4.5 hours which provided for a total of 45 hours to conduct the hearings.

There was no change to this timeframe or scheduling for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 hearings. It should be noted that the times quoted for the Estimates Committee public hearings does not include the half-hour lunch break and half-hour dinner break.

Time frames set by other jurisdictions are:

Tasmania, two (2) Estimate Committees are appointed, sitting a total of **63 hours**.

Western Australia, two (2) Estimate Committees are appointed, sitting a total of **66 hours**.

South Australia, two (2) Estimate Committees are appointed, sitting a total of **72.75 hours**.

Queensland, seven (7) separate Estimate Committees are appointed, sitting a total of **63 hours**.

It should also be noted that both Tasmania and South Australia imposed strict timelines in the asking and answering of a question with one minute for a Committee Member to ask the question and three minutes for the Minister to respond. In Tasmania the recording of this is done through a computer with a time clock which Members can monitor and a warning bell sounded with thirty (30) seconds to go.

To assist the Standing Orders Committee I have included within this paper the detailed information I have canvassed from the above four jurisdictions.

The issue of the ability to directly question public servants in the Estimates Committee process is one that does not occur in any other jurisdiction canvassed. All Committees have in place procedures which provide for a Minister to defer a question to a public servant but in the event that a Committee Member and a public servant become involved in a corresponding series of questions and answers the chairman will call the hearing to order and refocus the member to refer questions to the Minister appearing as a witness.

The only jurisdiction that mentioned direct questioning was the Western Australian Legislative Council where the Standing Orders only refer to questions of a policy nature not being referred to a public servant.

The Secretariat has advised that in practice, there are occasions where a Minister cannot attend a hearing of the Committee and the public servants of the particular agency attend and are questioned. During this process the public servant is not required to answer questions of policy and if there are other issues that they consider inappropriate or unable to answer those questions are then taken on notice and provided to the responsible Minister.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian House of Assembly and Legislative Council each have two (2) Estimates committees (sum total of four (4) committees operating simultaneously during a four (4) day period)with one (1) day or part thereon being set aside for each Ministers portfolio responsibilities. .

For the House of Assembly set times for Estimates Committee Hearings consists of:

*9:30 am. to 12:30 pm. and 2:30 pm. to 5:30 pm.
If required, an additional time for sittings can be extended from 7:30 pm. to 10:30 pm. if a formal written application is submitted to the chair of the relevant committee no later than 12 noon on the day*

The actual time for each Minister is negotiated by the Leader of Government Business and the two Leaders of the Opposition Parties.

Within the Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly (attachment A), the maximum time allowed for the Estimates Committee process is 63 hours with the time allocated for each session this year set out below. During the day, any time lost from examination of the estimates through breaking for suspensions and disruptions are added to the finishing time.

The Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly for the June 2009 Estimates Committee allocated:

Estimates Committee "A";

Premier and Minister of Education and Skills, **10 hours**
Treasurer Minister to Economic Development Minister for Racing, **10 hours**
Minister for Environment Parks Heritage and the Arts Minister for Tourism
Minister for Sport and Recreation, **8 hours**;
Minister for Infrastructure Minister for Veterans Affairs, **5 hours**

Estimates Committee “B”

Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Minister for Energy and Resources,
Minister for Planning, **9 hours**;
Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Health, **9 hours**;
Minister for Police and Emergency Management, Minister for Local
Government, **5 hours**;
Minister for Corrections and Consumer Protection, Minister for Workplace
Relations, Minister assisting the Premier on Climate Change, **3.5 hours**;
Minister for Human Services, **3.5 hours**

All up a total of **63 hours** for the two (2) Lower House Estimates Committees.

With the allocation of a specific number of hours for individual Ministers the Votes and Proceedings also stipulated specific sitting times throughout the day. These individual timeframes vary, depending on the total hours the Minister appears as a witness. These variations can be seen in attachment “A” under the heading “Sitting Times”.

As this paper addresses the overall issue of timing it is also appropriate to consider a further section within the Assembly’s Votes and Proceedings. Under the heading Proceedings of an Estimates Committee, section six (6) stipulates

“ time limits of one minute per question and three minutes per answer shall apply in Estimates committee.”

Ministers are also questioned by Members of the Upper House, the Legislative Council Estimates Committee, over a four (4) day period. The core times within which they operate are 9:30 am. to 12:30 pm. then 2:00 pm. till 5:00 pm. and if required 7:00 pm. until 10:00 pm.

Each Minister can be subject to nine hours of questioning, but the normal process is that by negotiation, the 5:00 pm. timeframe is extended to finalise any questions in lieu of breaking for an evening meal and resuming at 7:00 pm.

There is no relationship between the times negotiated for each Minister in the Lower House and those in the Upper House.

Questioning of public servants must be through the Minister and if it appears that Members of the Committee are directing questions to public servants, the chair would intervene and remind Members to direct their questions to the Minister in the first instance.

Western Australia

The Legislative Assembly standing orders states that

“...there will be a management committee which will comprise the Leader of the and House, one member nominated in writing to the Speaker by the Premier, and two Members similarly nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Before the Estimates Committee first meet, the Leader of the House will present to the Assembly the report of the management committee which report will prescribe

(a) which parts of the Estimates are to be considered by each committee;

(b) the time allocated for consideration of each part or any division or program of the estimate and the budgets of those agencies”

The Legislative Assembly appoints two (2) Estimates Committees and each Committee sits for three days 9:00 am. to 10:00 pm. with an hour break for both lunch/dinner. The total time taken for the questioning during the estimates process is **66 hours**.

All questions are referred to the Minister and the Minister can defer to a public servant if he considers it necessary but there is no direct questioning of the public servant by the Committee. The Secretariat has advised that if during the normal process of questions and answers the situation does arise the chairman will call the Committee to order and questioning will then be referred back through the Minister.

There is no timeframes set for the asking of and responding to questions

In the Legislative Council the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee operates over a twelve (12) month period and only one day is set aside for a full public hearing.

Throughout the rest of the year the process is that Ministers are invited to appear before the Committee. Prior to invitations being sent out Members are requested to advise the Committee of any specific areas of interest with the department/agency to ensure the attendance at the hearing of the relevant departmental/agency staff.

There are no timeframes for this questioning process and Committee Members can continue on until they have exhausted their series of questions.

The policy and procedure document for the 09/10 hearings stipulates

“public servants appearing before a committee in that capacity are entitled to refuse to answer questions on matter of policy. The committee must direct all such questions to the responsible minister.”

Advice from the Secretariat of this Committee is that on some occasions Ministers are not in a position to attend the hearings and questions are then directed to public servants in attendance. If the situation arises where an answer cannot be provided or the witnesses declines to answer the question it is then taken on notice and that question is referred to the relevant Minister for a reply.

South Australia

There are two (2) Estimates Committees appointed after the tabling of the Appropriation Bill. (Attachment B)

Estimates Committee "A" schedule of sittings for 2009:

Thursday 25th of June 2009

Premier, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change, Minister for Economic Development Minister for the Arts, **2.75 hours**

Minister assisting the Premier in the Arts, Minister assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business and Public Sector Management, **2.5 hours**

Treasurer **4.5 hours**

Friday 26th June 2009

Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister for Industry and Trade, **3.25 hours**

Treasurer (being questioned on Defence), **1 hour**

Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling, **1.5 hours**

Monday 29th June 2009

Minister for Housing, Minister for Disability, Minister for the Northern Suburbs, Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Ageing, **4.5 hours**

Tuesday 30th June 2009

Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Agriculture Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development, **6.5 hours**

6.5 hours

Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Tourism, **2 hours**

Wednesday 1st July 2009

Minister for Urban Development and Planning, Minister for Mineral Resources Development, Minister for Small Business, **4 hours**

Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Police, Minister for Recreation and Sport and Racing

5.5 hours

The total hours in which Estimates Committee "A" sat was **38 hours**

Estimates Committee "B" schedule of sittings

Thursday 25th June 2009

Minister for Transport, Minister for Energy, Minister for Infrastructure,
6.5 hours
Minister for Health, Minister for Southern Suburbs, **4 hours**

Friday 26th June 2009

Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
and Reconciliations, Minister for Early Childhood Development, **5.75 hours**

Monday 29th June 2009

Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Minister for Consumer
Affairs, Minister for Status of Women, **3.75 hours**
Minister for Government Enterprises **0.5 hour**

Tuesday 30th June 2009

Minister for Education, **3.75 hours**
Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice,
3 hours

Wednesday 1st July 2009

Minister for Employment Training and Further Education, Minister for Road
Safety, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Water
Security, Minister for River Murray, **8 hours**

The total hours in which Estimates Committee "B" sat was **35.25 hours**, and all up
total of **73.25 hours** for the two committees.

There are no timeframes set for the asking of and responding to questions.

QUEENSLAND

Queensland Estimates Committee process is slightly different in that seven (7) separate Estimates Committees are appointed with each Committee sitting for one (1) full day.

The standing orders state that ::

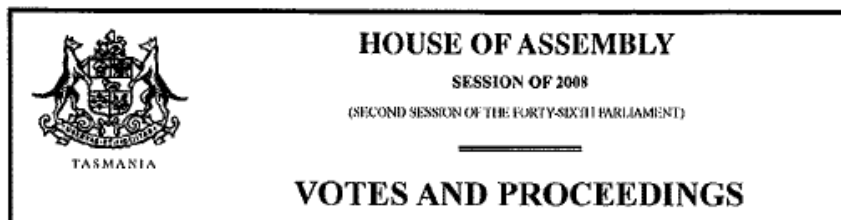
Estimates Committee hearings are to be held within the times 8:30 am. and 7:30 pm. on the day or days allocated. However, a Committee shall hold no more than a total of nine hours of hearings.

The total number of hours in which the Queensland Estimates Committee process can operate is **63 hours**.

Advice from the Secretariat is that individual committees negotiate their own timeframe to conduct the hearings with some Committees not actually utilising the nine hours available.

It should be noted that the Queensland Estimates Committee also maintains a strict time limit for questions and answers with one (1) minute for a question and three (3) minutes for an answer. There is a process (computer-driven) whereby members can view the countdown of their time allocation and a warning bell is also provided.

EXTRACT



No. 65

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2009

25 CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATION BILLS (NUMBERS 1 AND 2) 2009: ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR DEBATE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEES. – Ordered, That:

- (a) all stages of the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2009 and the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2009 shall have allotted a maximum total of 97 hours as follows:
- (i) up to the Second Reading: Maximum 16 hours;
 - (ii) in the Estimates Committees: Maximum 63 hours; and
 - (iii) in Committee of the whole House and Third reading: Maximum 18 hours;
- (b) on the Second reading, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens have unlimited speaking time and other Members speak for not longer than 30 minutes each; and
- (c) when the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) 2009 have been read the Second time in the House of Assembly, the Bills be referred to Estimates Committees A and B of the House of Assembly.

Such Committees may not vote on, but may examine and report upon the proposed expenditures contained in the Bills by no later than 30 June 2009, with such expenditures being considered on an output by output basis, including Grants, Subsidies and Loans and the Capital Investment Program.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The following Ministerial portfolio units are allocated to House of Assembly Estimates Committee A:—

Date	Minister	Portfolios
Monday, 22 June (10 hours)	Hon. D. J. Bartlett MP	Premier Minister for Education and Skills

Tuesday, 23 June (10 hours)	Hon. M. A. Aird MLC	Treasurer Minister for Economic Development Minister for Racing
Wednesday, 24 June (8 hours)	Hon M. A. O'Byrne MP	Minister for Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts Minister for Tourism Minister for Sport and Recreation
Thursday, 25 June (5 hours)	Hon. G. L. Sturges MP	Minister for Infrastructure Minister for Veterans' Affairs

The following Ministerial portfolio units are allocated to House of Assembly Estimates Committee B:—

Date	Minister	Portfolios
Monday, 22 June (9 hours)	Hon. D. E. Llewellyn MP	Minister for Primary Industries and Water Minister for Energy and Resources Minister for Planning
Tuesday, 23 June (9 hours)	Hon. L. T. Giddings MP	Attorney-General Minister for Justice Minister for Health
Wednesday, 24 June (5 hours)	Hon. J. G. Cox MP	Minister for Police and Emergency Management Minister for Local Government
Thursday, 25 June (3.5 hours)	Hon. L. M. Singh MP	Minister for Corrections and Consumer Protection Minister for Workplace Relations Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change
	Hon. L. E. Thorp MLC (3.5 hours)	Minister for Human Services

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES

- (1) Estimates Committees A and B shall each consist of 6 Members, being 3 from the Government nominated by the Leader of the House, 2 from the Opposition nominated by the Leader of Opposition Business in the House, and 1 from the Tasmanian Greens nominated by the Leader of the Greens, to the Speaker.
- (2) The Chair of Committees shall be the Chair of Estimates Committee A, and a Deputy Chair of Committees shall be the Chair of Estimates Committee B. In the absence of the Chair of either Committee, the Members of the Committee present shall elect another Chair *pro tempore*.
- (3) The Chair of a Committee has a deliberative and a casting vote.
- (4) During sittings, substitute Members may be allowed at the discretion of the Chair.

- (5) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of a Committee, the Speaker may nominate a Member in substitution, but in so doing has regard to the composition of the Committee as appointed by the House.
- (6) A Committee may proceed with business despite a vacancy in its membership.
- (7) The quorum of a Committee is a majority of the Committee.
- (8) If at any time a quorum is not present, the Chair will suspend proceedings of the Committee until a quorum is present or adjourn the Committee.
- (9) Any time lost for lack of a quorum shall be added to the time allocated to that session.
- (10) Members of the House who are not Members of the Committee may participate in proceedings by asking a maximum of two questions on each program unit, but may not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purposes of a quorum.

SITTING TIMES

- (1) Each Estimates Committee meets only in accordance with the time-table adopted by the House or as varied by the Chair. If a Committee is sitting on any day –
 - (a) when a Minister is appearing before an Estimates Committee for a maximum time of ten hours the Committee commences at 9.00 a.m. and is suspended at 1.30 p.m., unless otherwise ordered and recommences at 2.30 p.m. and adjourns at 8.00 pm unless otherwise ordered;
 - (b) when a Minister is appearing before an Estimates Committee for a maximum time of nine hours the Committee commences at 9.00 a.m. and is suspended at 12.30 p.m., unless otherwise ordered and recommences at 1.30 p.m. and adjourns at 7.00 pm unless otherwise ordered;
 - (c) when a Minister is appearing before an Estimates Committee for a maximum time of eight hours the Committee commences at 9.00 a.m. and is suspended at 12.30 p.m., unless otherwise ordered and recommences at 2.00 p.m. and adjourns at 6.30 pm unless otherwise ordered;
 - (d) when a Minister is appearing before an Estimates Committee for a maximum time of five hours the Committee commences at 9.00 a.m. and is suspended at 12.30 p.m., unless otherwise ordered and recommences at 2.00 p.m. and adjourns at 3.30 p.m. unless otherwise ordered; and
 - (e) when the Minister for Minister for Corrections and Consumer Protection, Minister for Workplace Relations, Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change is appearing before an Estimates Committee for a maximum time of three hours and thirty minutes, the Committee commences at 9.00 a.m. and adjourns at 12.30 p.m., unless otherwise ordered;
 - (f) when the Minister for Human Services is appearing before an Estimates Committee for a maximum time of three hours and thirty minutes, the Committee commences at 1.30 p.m. and adjourns at 5.00 p.m., unless otherwise ordered;
- (2) Estimates Committees may sit only when the House is not sitting.

OPEN HEARINGS

All hearings of the Estimates Committees are open to the public.

PROCEEDINGS OF AN ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

- (1) Consideration of proposed expenditures in an Estimates Committee follows as far as possible the procedure observed in a Committee of the whole House.
- (2) A Committee will consider expenditures on an output by output basis, including Grants, Subsidies and Loans and the Capital Investment Program.
- (3) A Committee may ask for explanations from a Minister relating to the outputs.
- (4) The Minister who is asked for explanations may be assisted where necessary by officers in the provision of factual information.
- (5) Officers may answer questions at the request of the Minister but shall not be required to comment on policy matters.
- (6) Time limits of one minute for a question and three minutes for an answer shall apply in Estimates Committees.
- (7) Questions may be asked on a ratio of two Opposition, one Tasmanian Green and one Government or in such form as the Committee determines.
- (8) A Minister may advise an Estimates Committee that an answer to a question, or part of a question, asked of the Minister will be given later to the Committee, where possible that Committee sitting day.
- (9) A Minister may provide additional information to a Committee about an answer given by or for the Minister.
- (10) Additional information -
 - (a) is to be written;
 - (b) is to be given by a time decided by the Committee; and
 - (c) may be included in a volume of additional information laid on the Table of the House by the Committee.
- (11) If any Member persistently disrupts the business of an Estimates Committee, the Chair-
 - (a) names the Member;
 - (b) if the Member named is a Member of the Estimates Committee, suspends the sitting of the Estimates Committee until the Chair has reported the offence to the Speaker; and
 - (c) if the Member named is not a Member of the Estimates Committee, orders that Member's withdrawal from the sitting of the Committee until the Chair has reported the offence to the Speaker;

as soon as practicable, the Chair advises the Speaker who then gives notice that the Member of the Estimates Committee be replaced.

- (12) If any objection is taken to a ruling or decision of the Chair -
- (a) the objection must be taken at once and stated in writing;
 - (b) the Chair, as soon as practicable, advises the Speaker who makes a ruling on the matter, and
 - (c) the Estimates Committee may continue to meet but may not further examine the output then under consideration.
- (13) Television coverage will be allowed, subject to the same conditions that apply to televising of the House of Assembly.

HANSARD REPORT

An unedited transcript of Estimates Committee proceedings is to be circulated, in a manner similar to that used for the House Hansard, as soon as practicable after the Committee's proceedings.

REPORTS OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

- (1) A report of an Estimates Committee is presented by the Chair or Deputy Chair of that Committee to a Committee of the whole House, such reports containing any resolution or expression of opinion of that Committee.
- (2) When the reports of the Estimates Committees are presented they may be taken into consideration at once or at a future time.
- (3) The following time limit applies to consideration of reports of Estimates Committees on each portfolio unit on the question "That the proposed expenditures be agreed to and that the resolutions or expressions of opinion agreed to by the Committees in relation to those expenditures be noted."
- One Minister, the Leader of the Opposition or Member deputised by the Leader - 20 minutes, and the Leader of a recognised third party or Member deputised by the Leader - 20 minutes, any other Member - 10 minutes. A maximum period for consideration of 2 hours for each Minister.
- (4) When the consideration of reports of Estimates Committees A and B has been completed, the question is proposed and put forthwith without debate "That the remainder of the Bills be agreed to."
- (5) When the Bills have been agreed to by the House, the Third reading of each Bill may be taken into consideration at once or made an order of the day for the next sitting day. (The Minister for Primary Industries and Water)

2009 Estimates Committee Schedule

*** Amended 23rd June 2009 ***

Estimates will be held on the following days:

Thursday 25th June 2009
 Friday 26th June 2009
 Monday 29th June 2009
 Tuesday 30th June 2009
 Wednesday 1st July 2009

Glossary of Estimates Terms

- An **Appropriation Line** is a line in the schedule in the Appropriation Bill (Budget) which covers proposed expenditure for a portfolio area of the Budget.
- **Examination** means the questioning of responsible Ministers on proposed expenditures.
- **Commencement of an Appropriation Line** means the opening of that Departments line of expenditure in the Budget for examination.
- **Conclusion of an Appropriation Line** means the completion of the examination of that line of expenditure in the Budget. *(Examination of a line of expenditure may be suspended for further examination as an Appropriation Line may relate to more than one Agency or Minister.)*

Departmental Acronyms

AGD	=	Attorney-General's Department
CAA	=	Courts Administration Authority
DCS	=	Department of Correctional Services
DECS	=	Department of Education & Children's Services
DEH	=	Department for Environment & Heritage
DFC	=	Department of Families & Communities
DFEEST	=	Department of Further Education, Employment, Science & Technology
DoH	=	Department of Health
DPC	=	Department of Premier & Cabinet
DPLG	=	Department of Planning & Local Government
DTED	=	Department of Trade & Economic Development
DTEI	=	Department of Transport, Energy & Infrastructure
DTF	=	Department of Treasury & Finance
DWLBC	=	Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation
ECS	=	Electoral Commission SA
PIRSA	=	Department of Primary Industries & Resources South Australia
SAPOL	=	South Australia Police

Estimates Chambers

Estimates Committee A = House of Assembly Chamber
 Estimates Committee B = Legislative Council Chamber

THURSDAY 25th JUNE 2009

Estimates Committee - A

Premier Minister for Social Inclusion Minister for Sustainability & Climate Change 9:00am – 9:15am 9:15am – 9:30am 9:30am – 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative Council - House of Assembly - Joint Parliamentary Services - State Governor's Establishment - Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC) - Sustainability & Climate Change - Social Inclusion <p><i>(Commencement of DPC Appropriation Line)</i></p>
11:00am – 11:15am	Morning Break
Minister for Economic Development 11:15am – 12:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development Board <p><i>(Commencement of DTED Appropriation Line)</i></p>
Minister for the Arts Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts 12:00pm – 1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts SA
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Break
2:00pm – 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Auditor-General's Department
Premier Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business & Public Sector Management 2:30pm – 3:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office of Ethical Standards & Professional Integrity - Commissioner for Public Employment - Public Sector Performance Commission (DPC)
3:30pm – 3:45pm	Afternoon Break
Treasurer 3:45pm – 6:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Treasury & Finance (DTF)
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Dinner Break
Treasurer 7:30pm – 8:15pm 8:15pm – 8:45pm 8:45pm – 9:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Super SA - SAFA - SAAMC - Motor Sport Board - Funds SA - Motor Accident Commission <p><i>(Administered Items for DTF)</i></p>

THURSDAY 25th JUNE 2009**Estimates Committee - B**

Minister for Transport 9:00am – 10:40am	- Public Transport Division - TransAdelaide <i>(Commencement of DTEI Appropriation Line)</i>
10:40am – 11:30am	- Transport Planning Services (DTEI)
11:30am – 11:45am	Morning Break
Minister for Energy 11:45am – 1:45pm	- Energy Division (DTEI)
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Lunch Break
Minister for Infrastructure 2:45pm – 3:15pm	- Land Management Corporation <i>(Commencement of DTF Appropriation Line)</i> <i>(Administered Item for DTF)</i>
3:15pm – 4:15pm	- Office of Major Projects & Infrastructure Development (DTEI)
4:15pm – 4:45pm	- ICT - Land Services - Building Management (DTEI)
4:45pm – 5:00pm	Afternoon Break
Minister for Health 5:00pm – 6:45pm	- Department of Health (DoH) <i>(Commencement of DoH Appropriation Line)</i>
6:45pm – 7:30pm	Dinner Break
Minister for Health 7:30pm – 9:15pm	- Department of Health (DoH)
Minister for the Southern Suburbs 9:15pm – 9:45pm	- Office for the Southern Suburbs (DPLG) <i>(Commencement of DPLG Appropriation Line)</i>

Note: DTF Appropriation Line commencing at 2:45pm until 3:15pm in Committee B
DTF Appropriation Line commencing at 3:45pm onwards in Committee A

FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2009

Estimates Committee - A

Minister for Youth 9:00am – 9:30am	- Office for Youth (DFEEST) <i>(Commencement of DFEEST Appropriation Line)</i>
Minister for Volunteers 9:30am – 10:00am	- Office for Volunteers (AGD) <i>(Commencement of AGD Appropriation Line)</i>
Minister for Industry & Trade 10:00am – 12:15pm	- Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED)
12:15pm – 1:15pm Lunch Break	
Treasurer 1:15pm – 2:15pm	- Defence SA (DTF)
2:15pm – 4:00pm Afternoon Break	
Minister for Correctional Services 4:00pm – 5:00pm	- Department for Correctional Services (DCS)
Minister for Gambling 5:00pm – 5:30pm	- Liquor & Gambling Commissioner (AGD) - Independent Gambling Authority

FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2009

Estimates Committee - B

Minister for Environment & Conservation 10:15am – 11:15am 11:15am – 12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department for Environment & Heritage <i>(Commencement & Conclusion of DEH Appropriation Line)</i> - Environment Protection Authority
12:15pm – 1:15pm Lunch Break	
Minister for Environment & Conservation 1:15pm – 1:45pm 1:45pm – 3:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero Waste - Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) <i>(Commencement of DWLBC Appropriation Line)</i>
3:15pm – 3:30pm Afternoon Break	
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs & Reconciliation 3:30pm – 4:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Reconciliation (DPC)
Minister for Early Childhood Development 4:30pm – 5:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Childhood Development (DECS) <i>(Commencement of DECS Appropriation Line)</i>

MONDAY 29th JUNE 2009**Estimates Committee - A**

Minister for Housing 1:30pm – 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Australian Housing Trust - Housing SA - HomeStart Finance - Affordable Housing <i>(Commencement of DFC Appropriation Line)</i>
Minister for Disability 2:30pm – 3:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability Services
3:30pm – 3:45pm	A f t e r n o o n B r e a k
Minister for the Northern Suburbs 3:45pm – 4:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office for the Northern Suburbs (DPLG)
Minister for Families & Communities 4:15pm – 5:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Connect - Families SA
Minister for Ageing 5:15pm – 6:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office for the Ageing <i>(Conclusion of DFC Appropriation Line)</i>

MONDAY 29th JUNE 2009

Estimates Committee - B

Minister for State/Local Government Relations 1:30pm – 3:30pm	- Office for State/Local Government Relations (DPLG)
Minister for Consumer Affairs 3:30pm – 4:15pm	- Office for Consumer & Business Affairs (AGD) - Liquor & Gambling Commissioner (AGD)
4:15pm – 4:30pm	Afternoon Break
Minister for the Status of Women 4:30pm – 5:30pm	- Office for Women (AGD)
Minister for Government Enterprises 5:30pm – 6:00pm	- Service SA (DTEI) - Lotteries SA

Note: DPLG Appropriation Line commencing at 1:30pm until 3:30pm in Committee B
 DPLG Appropriation Line commencing at 3:45pm onwards in Committee A

TUESDAY 30th JUNE 2009**Estimates Committee - A**

Minister for Industrial Relations 9:00am – 10:00am	- SafeWork SA - Public Sector Workforce Division (DPC) <i>(Conclusion of DPC Appropriation Line)</i>
10:00am – 10:45am	- WorkCover
10:45am – 11:00am	Morning Break
Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries 11:00am – 1:00pm	- Agriculture, Food & Fisheries (PIRSA) <i>(Commencement of PIRSA Appropriation Line)</i>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Break
Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries 2:00pm – 3:00pm	- Agriculture, Food & Fisheries (PIRSA)
Minister for Forests 3:00pm – 3:30pm	- Forestry SA - Forest Policy (PIRSA)
Minister for Regional Development 3:30pm – 4:45pm	- Office of Regional Affairs (DTED)
4:45pm – 5:00pm	Afternoon Break
Minister for Mental Health & Substance Abuse 5:00pm – 5:30pm	- Department of Health (DoH) - Drug & Alcohol Services South Australia (DoH) <i>(Conclusion of DoH Appropriation Line)</i>
Minister for Tourism 5:30pm – 7:00pm	- Adelaide Convention Centre - Adelaide Entertainment Centre - SA Tourism Commission - Minister for Tourism <i>(Commencement & Conclusion of Minister for Tourism Appropriation Line)</i>

TUESDAY 30th JUNE 2009**Estimates Committee - B**

Minister for Education 9:00am – 9:30am	- SACE Board of South Australia - Non-Government Schools <i>(Administered Items for DECS)</i>
9:30am – 10:45am	- Department of Education & Children's Services (DECS)
10:45am – 11:00am	M o r n i n g B r e a k
Minister for Education 11:00am – 1:00pm	- Department of Education & Children's Services (DECS) <i>(Conclusion of DECS Appropriation Line)</i>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	L u n c h B r e a k
Minister for Multicultural Affairs 2:00pm – 2:30pm	- Multicultural SA (AGD)
Attorney-General 2:30pm – 3:15pm	- Attorney-General's Department (AGD) - Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Justice 3:15pm – 3:45pm	- Electoral Commission SA (ECS)
3:45pm – 5:00pm	- Courts Administration Authority (CAA)

WEDNESDAY 1st JULY 2009**Estimates Committee - A**

Minister for Urban Development & Planning 9:00am – 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Beach Trust (DPLG) - Adelaide Cemeteries Authority (DPLG) - Planning SA (DPLG) <i>(Conclusion of DPLG Appropriation Line)</i>
11:00am – 11:15am	Morning Break
Minister for Mineral Resources Development 11:15am – 12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mineral Resources Development (PIRSA) <i>(Conclusion of PIRSA Appropriation Line)</i>
Minister for Small Business 12:15pm – 1:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small Business (DTED) <i>(Conclusion of DTED Appropriation Line)</i>
1:15pm – 2:15pm	Lunch Break
Minister for Emergency Services 2:15pm – 4:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission - Emergency Services Levy Fund - Country Fire Service - SA Metropolitan Fire Service - State Emergency Service
4:15pm – 4:30pm	Afternoon Break
Minister for Police 4:30pm – 6:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Australia Police (SAPOL) <i>(Conclusion of SAPOL Appropriation Line)</i>
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Dinner Break
Minister for Recreation, Sport & Racing 7:30pm – 8:00pm 8:00pm – 9:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office for Racing (AGD) - Office for Recreation & Sport (AGD) <i>(Conclusion of AGD Appropriation Line)</i>

WEDNESDAY 1st JULY 2009**Estimates Committee - B**

Minister for Employment, Training & Further Education 11:15am – 1:00pm	- Employment & Skills Innovation (DFEEST)
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Break
Minister for Employment, Training & Further Education 2:00pm – 2:45pm	- Employment & Skills Innovation (DFEEST)
Minister for Road Safety 2:45pm – 3:45pm	- Road Safety <i>(Commencement of SAPOL Appropriation Line)</i> <i>(Conclusion of DTEI Appropriation Line)</i>
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Afternoon Break
Minister for Science & Information Economy 4:00pm – 6:30pm	- Science Technology (DFEEST) - Science Innovation (DFEEST) - Playford Capital - Bio Innovation SA <i>(Conclusion of DFEEST Appropriation Line)</i>
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Dinner Break
Minister for Water Security 7:30pm – 8:30pm	- SA Water
Minister for the River Murray 8:30pm – 9:30pm	- Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) <i>(Conclusion of DWLBC Appropriation Line)</i>

Note: SAPOL Appropriation Line commencing at 2:45pm until 3:45pm in Committee B
SAPOL Appropriation Line commencing at 4:30pm onwards in Committee A