

Business of the House – Legislative Assembly

The business of the house in the Legislative Assembly (as in the Legislative Council) has been modified historically in order to accommodate the changing roles of Parliament and parliamentarians. As the 'House of Government', there is substantial media and public interest in the business of the Legislative Assembly. This is particularly true for questions without notice, or 'Question Time', occurring at approximately 2.00 pm every sitting day.

Days and Times of Sitting

Unless it decides otherwise, the Assembly meets on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each sitting week. Sitting weeks are set by the government and generally total about 20 to 25 weeks each year.

Order of Business

The work of the Legislative Assembly can vary markedly from one day to the next depending upon the items of business. Some activities like Question Time occur regularly each day whilst others like the presentation of papers may vary in frequency. A typical sitting day in the Legislative Assembly generally includes the following procedures:

- prayers;
- presentation of petitions;
- presentation of papers for tabling (often reports from government departments and subsidiary or delegated legislation);
- giving notices of motion;
- brief ministerial statements;
- Questions without Notice;
- Government Business (notices of motion and the passage of bills); and
- Adjournment of the house (a collective decision to conclude the sitting day). On particular days the Legislative Assembly

allocates time to matters of public interest (MPIs), private members' business, committee reports, grievances and members' 90-second statements.

Matters of Public Interest (MPIs)

If a member wishes to raise a motion as a matter of public interest they must do so by writing to the Speaker before 12 noon on any given day. Only one MPI may be debated in each sitting week. Debate can occur at the conclusion of giving notices of motion on Tuesdays or at the conclusion of Question Time on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Private Members' Business Generally takes place between 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm on the Wednesday of a sitting week. The term 'private members' business' refers to business that is initiated by a member who is not a minister.

Grievances

Grievances are debated only on a Thursday after brief ministerial statements. Four members may speak on grievances and no member may speak more than once. A minister or a member deputed will have the right to reply to each of the grievances.

Members' 90-Second Statements

Once in each sitting week, at a time decided by the Speaker, the Speaker will call for statements by members. Up to six members, other than a minister, may make a statement not exceeding 90 seconds.



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ORDER OF BUSINESS

Times	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Times	
9:00 - 9:10 am			9:00 am - House Sits Prayers, Petitions Papers, Notices	9:00 - 9:10 am	
9:10 - 10:10 am			Grievances	9:10 - 10:10 am	
10:10 - 11:00 am			Government Business (or Committee Reports)	10:10 - 11:00 am	
11:00 - 12:00 pm			Government Business	11:00 - 12:00 pm	
12:00 - 12:15 pm			12 noon - House Sits Prayers, Petitions Papers, Notices	12:00 - 12:15 pm	
12:15 - 12:50 pm			Government Business	12:15 - 12:50 pm	
12:50 - 1:00 pm				Members' Statements (90 second Statements)	12:50 - 1:00 pm
1:00 - 2:00 pm				Lunch Break	1:00 - 2:00pm
2:00 - 2:05 pm	2:00 pm - House Sits Prayers Brief Ministerial Statements	Question Time (approx. 45 minutes)	Question Time (approx. 45 minutes)	2:00 - 2:05 pm	
2:05 - 2:45 pm	Question Time (approx. 45 minutes)			2:05 - 2:45 pm	
2:45 - 2:50 pm	Petitions, Papers, Notices	Government Business (or Matter of Public Interest*)	Government Business (or Matter of Public Interest*)	2:45 - 2:50 pm	
2:50 - 3:45 pm	Government Business (or Matter of Public Interest*)			2:50 - 3:45 pm	
3:45 - 3:50 pm		Government Business	Government Business	3:45 - 3:50 pm	
3:50 - 4:00 pm	Government Business			3:50 - 4:00 pm	
4:00 - 5:00 pm				Private Members' Business	4:00 - 5:00 pm
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Government Business	House Adjourns Approx. 7:00	House Adjourns Approx. 5:00	5:00 - 6:00 pm	
6:00 - 7:00 pm				Dinner Break	6:00 - 7:00 pm
7:00 - 8:00 pm				7:00 - 8:00 pm	
8:00 - 9:00 pm				8:00 - 9:00 pm	
9:00 - 10:00 pm				9:00 - 10:00 pm	
10:00 pm	House Adjourns Approx. 10:00			10:00 pm	

