

TEMPORARY ORDERS - PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Standing Orders Suspension - Motion

MR J.C. KOBELKE (Balcatta - Leader of the House) [3.20 pm] - without notice: I move -

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to allow the following motion to be moved forthwith -

That the following temporary orders apply until 31 December 2006 -

- (1) New Standing Order 59A is inserted -

“Premier’s Statement

59A. (1) On the first sitting day of each calendar year, the Premier will make a statement to the Assembly outlining the Government’s legislative and other policy intentions for the next 12 months.

(2) No Premier’s Statement is to be made when the first sitting day of a year is the first sitting day of a session of Parliament.

(3) Following the Premier’s Statement the question will be proposed, “That the Premier’s Statement be noted”.

(4) Bills may be introduced and taken to the stage that the motion “That the bill be now read a second time” has been moved, but no other business that is not of a formal or procedural nature will have priority until after 3 sitting days (including the remainder of the first sitting day) have been dedicated exclusively to the debate on noting the Premier’s Statement.”.

- (2) Standing Order 101 is amended by -

(a) deleting the “**Address in Reply**” entry and substituting the following -

“Address in Reply; Premier’s Statement (S.O.’s 8 and 59A)

Premier or one member deputed..... unspecified

Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed..... unspecified

Any other member..... *20 minutes

On any amendment, each member..... 20 minutes

* If the member so requests during or immediately upon expiry of a speech, the time for the speech will be extended by a further 10 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under Standing Order 102.”

(b) deleting from the “**Principal appropriation bill**” entry, “Any other member . . . 45 minutes” and substituting the following -

“Any other member . . . *20 minutes

* If the member speaking so requests during or immediately upon expiry of a speech, the time for the speech will be extended by a further 10 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under Standing Order 102.”

I have received very positive feedback from members opposite in taking up the recommendations of the Procedure and Privileges Committee about which I made a short ministerial statement earlier today. All members opposite were provided last week with copies of what I have just read, and I have received no feedback to suggest there are any technical errors. On that basis, I do not propose to speak to this matter at length. I appreciate the work that has been done by the committee. This motion fulfils the orders on a temporary basis so they can be tried this year. If they work and we do not need to make any modifications, we would seek to incorporate this motion as part of our standing orders.

I thank all those involved. I also thank members opposite for the positive support we have received so far for instituting this change to the standing orders on a temporary basis.

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [3.23 pm]: Her Majesty's opposition has no objection to the proposals put forward by the Leader of the House. I understand that members of the Procedure and Privileges Committee were unanimous in recommending these proposed changes. We accept the trial and we will cooperate with the government. If the trial is not successful, I daresay we will respond accordingly at that stage.

MR M.W. TRENORDEN (Avon) [3.24 pm]: On behalf of the National Party, I congratulate the Leader of the House for taking up this proposal. I know it has taken some time for this motion to come to fruition. As you would be aware, Mr Speaker, the only argument the National Party had on this matter was that it would have liked the allocation of a bit longer speaking time; that argument is only in the sense that the Address-in-Reply is one of the few occasions a year in which members have an opportunity to speak about their electorates. It does not matter which side of the house members are on; it is an opportunity that backbenchers do value.

In general, these changes are excellent and it is good to see the government picking them up and changing this process. For example, I would not have objected if there were no amendments. The National Party was not hot on amending the Premier's Statement. Nevertheless, it gives the Premier - and I congratulate him on his election to this most senior position in the state - an opportunity to make a statement each year on what directions he wants the government to take, but, most importantly, it will allow backbenchers to speak about their electorates and to ask appropriate questions about their electorates. That will be a very good thing for this place.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Motion

On motion by **Mr J.C. Kobelke (Leader of the House)**, resolved -

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On any amendment, each member..... 20 minutes

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Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY - Tuesday, 7 March 2006]

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Mr John Kobelke; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Max Trenorden

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