



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6000

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Monday 16 March 2020

COVID-19- Statement by the Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Western Australia

Following the declaration of a state of emergency in Western Australia in response to COVID -19 we are resolved that our Parliament, insofar as possible, should continue to fulfil its important constitutional duties of passing legislation, holding Government to account and, crucially, representing the views of the people of Western Australia.

In order to preserve the operation of Parliament, we have taken temporary, proportionate and reasonable measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to protect staff, members and those that attend the Parliament. In doing so we are protecting the health and safety of the broader community. From Tuesday, 17 March 2020 cancellation of the following services will be implemented:

- school and public tours
- all functions and events hosted at Parliament House
- Dining Room Bookings with guests

Additionally, applications to hold a rally at Parliament House will not be approved.

Whilst the Public Galleries of both Houses will remain open the number of people permitted entry will be limited to a maximum of 10 at any one time. West Australian's are encouraged to watch live proceedings via broadcast and read transcripts of what was said in Parliament on our website (www.parliament.wa.gov.au).

Members of Parliament and essential staff will continue to access Parliament House to facilitate Parliamentary sittings. In the interests of openness and transparency, accredited journalists will continue to have access to the Parliament and report on proceedings.

We wish to reassure Western Australians that we are monitoring this situation closely. Our response will continue to be informed by the expert advice we are receiving from health authorities.

We will keep the community informed of any developments as this situation continues to evolve. These temporary measures will be kept under review and the Heads of the Parliamentary departments' are briefing us on a daily basis.

Hon Kate Doust MLC
President of the Legislative Council

Hon Peter Watson MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly