



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE
ON**

**Operation of Sessional Orders –
Amending Motions and Tabling of
Committee Reports**

Brought up by the Leader of the House and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Hon. Jacquie Petrusma MP (Chair)
Ms Helen Burnet MP
Hon. Eric Abetz MP
Mr Vica Bayley MP
Ms Janie Finlay MP
Ms Ella Haddad MP
Ms Kristie Johnston MP

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of its ongoing commitment to reviewing the operation of Standing and Sessional Orders, at its meeting on 18 June 2026 the Committee took into consideration two issues:
- The procedures for amending Notices of Motion, and
 - Tabling of Committee reports when the House is not sitting.
- 1.2 This report addresses both issues and makes recommendations for related Sessional Orders.

2. AMENDING NOTICES OF MOTION

- 2.1 In accordance with Standing Order 68, Members lodge Notices of Motion with the Clerk by 11.00 am on a sitting day. Once submitted, Notices of Motion are informally circulated to all Members by parliamentary staff ahead of publication in the Notice Paper. Notice Paper publication occurs when the House adjourns for the evening.
- 2.2 The current mechanism for amending Notices of Motion is set out in Standing Order 72, which provides that "An amended Notice shall be given in the mode prescribed for giving of original Notices" – that is, by lodging with the Clerk by 11.00 am for publication that evening.
- 2.3 Practice has developed so that it is common for Members to give Notices of Motion one day prior to moving them during their allocated time for Private Members' Business. Under these circumstances, there is insufficient time for Members to amend their Notices of Motion in accordance with Standing Order 72.
- 2.4 The Committee is aware that it is also frequent practice that Members review the Notices of Motion at time of informal circulation, then negotiate the content with the Member with carriage, which can lead to that Member seeking to amend their own motion immediately after moving it in the House the following day.
- 2.5 Given the current procedures for amendments and time limits on debates, the time taken by a Member moving an amendment (which has effectively been already negotiated and agreed in advance outside the Chamber) to their own motion can limit opportunities for other Members to move amendments and contribute to the debate.
- 2.6 The Committee considered practice in other Australian jurisdictions. Standing Orders that enable Members to amend a Notice of Motion after it has been given exist in some other jurisdictions, however they are predicated around ensuring that all Members of the House are aware of the amended Notice before the Notice is moved.
- 2.7 Some Standing Orders of other Houses have provisions that allow Members to notify the Clerk of amendments within such time as will enable the amendment to be made on the Notice Paper.
- 2.8 The Committee resolved to recommend that the House vary Standing Order 72 by way of Sessional Order as follows:

72 *The terms may be altered.*

After a Notice of Motion has been given, its terms may be altered by the Member notifying the Clerk in writing within such time as will enable the alteration to be made on the Notice Paper.

- 2.9 In practice Members would be required to submit the amended Notice of Motion to the Clerk prior to the commencement of the Adjournment Debate. This would allow sufficient time for the Notice of Motion to be published in its amended form on the Notice Paper following the adjournment of the House. It would also be circulated to Members by parliamentary staff, allowing all other Members sufficient time to review the motion ahead of the debate.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the House vary Standing Order 72 by way of Sessional Order as follows:

Sessional Order 72:

After a Notice of Motion has been given, its terms may be altered by the Member notifying the Clerk in writing within such time as will enable the alteration to be made on the Notice Paper.

3. TABLING COMMITTEE REPORTS OUT OF SESSION

- 3.1 Currently Parliamentary Committees established by the House have limited ability to table their reports when the House is not sitting. In most cases, Committee reports (once agreed to by the respective Committee) are held over until the next sitting day when they can be tabled in the House.
- 3.2 One exception is the Public Works Committee. In accordance with Section 16(4) of the *Public Works Committee Act 191* the Public Works Committee has the ability to table reports 'out of session' with the Governor:

(4) The Committee shall, with all convenient dispatch, deal with the matter and shall as soon as conveniently practicable, regard being had to the nature and importance of the proposed work, report to the House of Assembly, if the House of Assembly is then in session, and, if not, to the Governor, the result of their inquiries.

- 3.3 Additionally, there are precedents of the House resolving that Select Committees can table out of session, with one example being the motion establishing Select Committee on Housing Affordability, which incorporated the following:

If the House is not sitting when the Committee completes its report, such report may be presented to the Speaker or to the Deputy Speaker and in that event, the report shall be deemed to have been presented to the House and ordered to be printed.¹

- 3.4 The Committee considered practice in other Australian jurisdictions and found several examples of Standing or Sessional Orders that provide for out of session tabling with either the Speaker or the Clerk. In those cases, Committee reports tabled with the Speaker or the Clerk when the House is not sitting are deemed to have been tabled, made public, then reported to the House at the next opportunity.

¹ House of Assembly, Votes and Proceedings, 26 November 2019, p. 6.

- 3.5 The Committee considers that providing House of Assembly Committees with a common ability to table reports more frequently and without the need to wait for a sitting of the House would be beneficial. This measure would assist Committees complete and make public the outcome of their inquiries in a more timely manner.
- 3.6 Current Standing Orders that provide for tabling of Committee reports are:
- **Standing Order 286 When to report** (Select Committees), and
 - **Standing Order 321 Report** (Joint Committees).
- 3.7 The Committee resolved to recommend that the House adopt the following Sessional Orders to facilitate out of session tabling of committee reports:

SO 286 When to report

(1) On the appointment of every Select Committee a day shall be fixed on or before which its proceedings shall be reported to the House, and on or before such day the final Report of the Committee shall be brought up by the Chair, unless the time for bringing up the Report shall have been extended by the House.

(2) If the House is not sitting when the Committee completes its report, such report may be presented to the Clerk and in that event, the report shall be deemed to have been presented to the House and ordered to be printed, and the documents shall be reported in the House at its next sitting.

SO 321 Report

(1) When the Committee has concluded its Sittings, a copy of the Report, signed by the Chair, shall be presented to the House by one of the Members it shall have appointed to serve on such committee.

(2) If the House is not sitting when the Committee completes its report, such report may be presented to the Clerk and in that event, the report shall be deemed to have been presented to the House and ordered to be printed, and the documents shall be reported in the House at its next sitting.

- 3.8 Standing Committees such as the Government Administration Committees and the Standing Orders and Privileges Committees are not covered by the Sessional Orders proposed above. The Committee resolved to recommend the following Sessional Order to cover relevant circumstances for Standing Committees:

SO 326A Standing Committee Report

(1) When the Committee has concluded its Sittings, a copy of the Report, signed by the Chair, shall be presented to the House by one of the Members it shall have appointed to serve on such committee.

(2) If the House is not sitting when the Committee completes its report, such report may be presented to the Clerk and in that event, the report shall be deemed to have been presented to the House and ordered to be printed, and the documents shall be reported in the House at its next sitting.

- 3.9 Noting that under the current structure of the Standing Orders, three Sessional Orders are required to allow all committees to report out of session, the Standing Orders Committee intends to review the operation of these Sessional Orders with the intention of consolidating and adopting the procedure in one Standing Order to cover all types of Committees.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the House adopt the abovementioned Sessional Orders to facilitate out of session tabling of Committee reports.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the House vary Standing Order 72 by way of Sessional Order as follows:

72 The terms may be altered

After a Notice of Motion has been given, its terms may be altered by the Member notifying the Clerk in writing within such time as will enable the alteration to be made on the Notice Paper.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the House adopt the following Sessional Orders:

286 When to report

(1) On the appointment of every Select Committee a day shall be fixed on or before which its proceedings shall be reported to the House, and on or before such day the final Report of the Committee shall be brought up by the Chair, unless the time for bringing up the Report shall have been extended by the House.

(2) If the House is not sitting when the Committee completes its report, such report may be presented to the Clerk and in that event, the report shall be deemed to have been presented to the House and ordered to be printed, and the documents shall be reported in the House at its next sitting.

321 Report

(1) When the Committee has concluded its Sittings, a copy of the Report, signed by the Chair, shall be presented to the House by one of the Members it shall have appointed to serve on such committee.

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Hon. Jacquie Petrusma MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE
19 August 2026