



Legislative Council
Procedure Committee

Standing Orders review 2026

Report

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About the Committee

Functions

The Procedure Committee considers any matter regarding the practices and procedure of the House and may consider any matter referred to it by the Council or the President.

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Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Legislative Council rescind all current Temporary Orders. 14

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed changes to Standing Orders in Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1 to take effect from 1 December 2026. 14

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the Legislative Council rescind Joint Standing Order 25 and send a message to the Legislative Assembly seeking their agreement. 14

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the Legislative Council rescind the resolution of continuing effect adopted on 30 April 2019 relating to the Parliamentary Integrity Adviser and send a Message to the Legislative Assembly seeking their agreement. 14

Chapter 1

Background and summary

1.1 Overview

The Legislative Council Procedure Committee met between June and August 2026 to review Temporary Orders, Sessional Orders and certain Standing Orders.

A range of matters pertaining to the practices and procedures of the Legislative Council were brought forward to the Committee during the 60th Parliament. The Committee agreed to consider the following within a general review of the current rules of the House:

1. Temporary Orders implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the House to continue to operate safely and provide greater flexibility where members may be required to be absent from the Chamber.
2. Sessional Orders in operation in the 60th Parliament for possible inclusion as Standing Orders for the 61st Parliament.
3. Certain matters identified by the Clerk within Standing Orders, including corrections and changes to match the current practices of the House, and changes to improve and clarify the operation of the House.

The Committee has completed its review.

The proposed changes aim to:

- Incorporate temporary rules that the Council has operated under for some time into Standing Orders.
- Align the written rules with the current practices of the Council.
- Correct minor language and grammar oversights.
- Improve the relevance and responsiveness of the rules and functioning of the Chamber to current attitudes, practices and changing needs.
- Clarify contradictory and irrelevant rules that have made the application, explanation and interpretation of the Standing Orders difficult.

A brief background and description for each Temporary Order, Sessional Order and Standing Order change is outlined in this Chapter, including the issue and rationale for change.

1.1.1 Temporary Orders

The Committee notes that any Temporary Orders that are not rescinded at the conclusion of this Parliament will continue to be in force at the commencement of the next Parliament and will remain in place until the House resolves otherwise.

The Committee has determined that certain Temporary Orders should be incorporated in Standing Orders, while others should be rescinded (see Sections 1.2 and 2.1 and Table 2.1).

1.1.2 Sessional Orders

The Committee decided that certain Sessional Orders should be retained as Standing Orders, while others should lapse at the conclusion of the Parliament (see Sections 1.3 and 2.2 and Table 2.2).

1.1.3 Standing Orders

The Committee considered changes to Standing Orders to improve the clarity and operation of proceedings. These have been drafted as amendments to Standing Orders for consideration by the Legislative Council. The rationale for each is outlined in Section 1.4 and the proposed amendments and draft Standing Orders are set out in Table 3.1.

1.2 Temporary orders

Temporary Orders were made during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–21. They were agreed to operate until the House resolved otherwise.

Some are no longer required and others should be adopted as Standing Orders. A description of each and the proposed recommendation is described below and outlined in Table 2.1.

1.2.1 Temporary Order 1 – Definition of ‘their place’

Temporary Order 1 (along with a previous Temporary Order expanding the floor of the Chamber) allowed the members to be allocated an official seat in an expanded definition of the Chamber floor (for instance a seat in the public and side galleries). This allowed members to be distanced from each other. This is no longer required as the floor of the Chamber has returned to its original meaning.

1.2.2 Temporary Orders 2, 3 and 7 – Incorporating business in Hansard

Temporary Order 2 provides a process for members to incorporate a notice of motion on the Notice Paper, rather than reading it aloud in the House. This has been infrequently used during the 60th Parliament and is no longer required.

Temporary Order 3 allows certain speeches to be incorporated in Hansard, rather than read aloud in the House. This has been used primarily for contributions to second reading debates and debate on motions, as well as for raising adjournment matters.

Temporary Order 7 allows for second reading speeches to be incorporated in Hansard and overlaps with Temporary Order 3.

The Committee considers this a valuable process to allow members to contribute to parliamentary matters in circumstances where they have not been able to do so verbally in the Chamber for various reasons.

The Committee proposes the introduction of a new Standing Order to allow this practice to continue.

1.2.3 Temporary Order 4 – Divisions

Temporary Order 4, which the Council has had in place since 2020, changed the way the Council conducts divisions. Instead of members moving to different sides of the Chamber and being counted by tellers, members stand in their place and are counted by the Clerks. Although this practice was initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the interaction between members and potential transmission, the new process has proved to be more efficient and saves the House time when conducting divisions.

The Committee therefore proposes that the process for conducting divisions in the Standing Orders be amended to make the practice set out in the Temporary Order permanent. The suggested Standing Order includes some minor changes to the Temporary Order, including:

- Removing the provisions relating to single member or single minor parties as the sole voter on one side.
- Providing an alternative to standing up for members who are unable to stand to signify their vote.
- Correcting the language to provide greater certainty in the application of the rules.

1.2.4 Temporary Order 5 – Acting Presidents

Temporary Order 5 allows an Acting President to be appointed to exercise the authority of the President where both the President and Deputy President are absent from duty. This was put in place to ensure the Council could continue to operate in a circumstance where both the President and Deputy President were unable to attend the Chamber.

The Committee considers that a process that allows the Council to convene and function where both the President and Deputy President are unable to attend the Chamber for a sitting day is required. The proposed new Standing Order provides for the Clerk to conduct an election for an acting Deputy President in this circumstance.

1.2.5 Temporary Order 6 – Discretion in ringing the bells to form a quorum

Temporary Order 6 gives discretion in ringing the bells to form a quorum during the course of the sitting day. The Committee further considered the operation of Standing Order 4.03 'Lack of quorum' and determined changes were required to streamline this process and remove ambiguity (see Section 1.4.1).

The Committee proposes a replacement for Standing Order 4.03 that alters the practice of quorum calls in the Council and incorporates this Temporary Order to the extent that it permits the Chair to recommence the sitting of the Council following a suspension provided the Chair is confident a quorum is present within the parliamentary precinct.

1.3 Sessional Orders

1.3.1 Sessional Order 1 – Interruption of debate – Messages

Sessional Order 1 amends Standing Order 4.07(7) giving the President discretion in reading any Messages from the Assembly before proposing the House adjourn (once the time for interrupting business has been reached). This is a minor change in the Standing Orders that the Council has operated under in both the 59th and 60th Parliaments. The Committee agreed this Sessional Order should be incorporated in Standing Orders.

1.3.2 Sessional Order 2 – Order of business

Sessional Order 2 changed the order of business on a Wednesday. The Committee agreed this should lapse and the membership of the Council in the new Parliament may consider and adopt an appropriate sessional order.

1.3.3 Sessional Order 3 – Time limits

Sessional Order 3 altered various time limits for debates set out in Standing Order 5.03.

In relation to ‘Government bills – second reading debate’ and ‘Government business’ time limits, the Council has operated under the 59th and 60th Parliaments. The Committee agreed these time limits should be updated in Standing Orders.

The Committee agreed to remove the time limit for ‘Budget debate’ from Standing Orders as it was no longer necessary to include as this is covered by other timed debates.

The Committee agreed that the time limits for ‘General business’, ‘Private member bills – second reading debate’ and ‘Statements on tabled papers and petitions’ should revert to those prescribed in Standing Orders.

1.3.4 Sessional Order 4 – Disorderly conduct

Sessional Order 4 introduces a process for members ordered to withdraw from the Chamber during question time to exclusively serve their suspension during the remaining or subsequent question times. The Committee agreed this Sessional Order should be incorporated in Standing Orders.

1.3.5 Sessional Order 5 – Standing committees membership

Sessional Order 5 amends the number of members appointed to standing committees. The Committee agreed this should lapse and the House may adopt an appropriate sessional order that considers the membership of the Chamber in the new Parliament.

1.3.6 Sessional Order 6 – Short form documents motions

Sessional Order 6 set out a procedure for the Council to consider short form production of documents motions. The Committee agreed the sessional order should lapse and the membership

of the Council in the new Parliament may consider and adopt an appropriate sessional order if required.

1.3.7 Sessional Order 7 – Variation of scope of production of documents orders

Sessional Order 7 set out a procedure for varying the scope of orders for documents. The Committee agreed this Sessional Order should be incorporated in Standing Orders.

1.4 Standing Orders

1.4.1 Chapter 4 – Sitting and adjournment of the Council

Lack of quorum (4.03)

There is ambiguity in Standing Order 4.03 relating to the process for forming a quorum once a member brings the lack of a quorum to the Chair's attention. The phrase 'rung as for a division' could be interpreted as though the bells need to be rung for four minutes even if quorum is formed earlier. The current Standing Order is also repetitive and unclear.

A replacement for Standing Order 4.03 is proposed that retains the practice of quorum calls in place prior to the implementation of Temporary Order 6 and further:

- Allows a member to draw the Chair's attention to the lack of quorum and the Chair to direct the bells be rung for up to 10 minutes to allow a quorum to be formed (instead of the bells being rung 'as for a division').
- Provides that the Chair will count members while the bells are ringing and stop the bells and return to the business of the House once a quorum is present (as opposed to the count occurring at the conclusion of the time for ringing the bells).
- Prescribes that no member may leave the Chamber during a quorum call.
- Permits the Chair to recommence the sitting following a suspension provided the Chair is confident that a quorum is present within the parliamentary precinct (see Section 1.2.5).

Interruption of debate (4.07) and Extension of sitting (4.08)

Standing Orders 4.07(2) and 4.08(2) conflict in the description of what may occur when the Council is in the Committee of the whole stage when the time for interruption under Standing Order 4.07(1) is reached.

Changes proposed to Standing Orders provide for a minister to declare an extension or move a motion for the extension of the sitting from the Table during Committee of the whole (without having to report progress first). This updates the rules to match the practice the Council has been following.

Adjournment proposed by President (4.09)

It is currently unclear under Standing Order 4.09 whether the President can propose the question to adjourn where a minister has declared an extension and the extension has elapsed. Further Sessional Orders have set different adjournment times that make it unclear when this Standing Order may be used.

Proposed changes will allow the President to propose the question for the adjournment where:

- the time prescribed for the adjournment has been reached; or
- the allocated time for items in the order of business has been exceeded; or
- the declared extension/s have concluded and the House has not agreed to an extension motion.

Standing Orders 4.07(1)(b) and (c) list a time the President will interrupt business on a Wednesday. A change is proposed that would remove a set time and provide for the interruption of business at the conclusion of 30 minutes of government business on a Wednesday, or at the conclusion of 60 minutes of Statements on tabled papers and petitions on a Wednesday if a joint sitting has been scheduled for 6.15 pm (these being the last items of business prior to the adjournment debate).

1.4.2 Chapter 5 – Business

Order of business (5.02)

The order of business includes both specific times of the day and timed debates that may not necessarily take their allotted time. This creates a situation where it is unclear when the House should move to the next item of business.

A minor change is proposed to the order of business for Wednesdays that uses the phrase ‘no later than’ instead of ‘at’ a specific time to move to Statements on reports and petitions. This allows the House to move to that item of business prior to 5.00 pm if remaining general business has been postponed.

A further change is proposed to remove the specific adjournment time in the order of business for Wednesday to allow the President to propose the House adjourn once the preceding items have been exhausted (either due to time limits or there being no further speakers).

An additional change for consistency is required to remove those set adjournment times in Standing Orders 4.07(1)(b) and (c) (see Section 1.4.1, ‘Adjournment proposed by President’).

Time limits (5.03)

The ‘Budget debate’ time limit is proposed to be removed from Standing Orders, as discussed in Section 1.3.3.

General business to take precedence (5.07)

For consistency with Standing Order 5.06, a reference to the special business exception in relation to general business taking precedence (as it does for government business) is proposed.

Condolences (5.12)

An additional Standing Order is proposed that gives members an option to formally request that they do not want a condolence motion moved in the event of their death. This will enable members to have input into how they are remembered by the House.

Further changes are proposed that remove the automatic suspension of the House for one hour following a condolence motion for a past or present Governor, Premier, Presiding Officer, minister, or party leader in either House. Instead, the House may consider a motion moved by a minister, without leave, for a suspension of a specified period of time in respect of these people.

1.4.3 Chapter 6 – Notices, motions and orders of the day

Discharge of business from the Notice Paper (6.08)

The number of notices of motion being given has steadily increased over time. As has the proportion of those notices that lapse after being listed on the Notice Paper for 20 sitting days. To adapt to this higher volume and the requirement for these to be published on the Notice Paper, a change is proposed to reduce the 20 sitting days to 12 sitting days. Under current sitting patterns (the Council sitting three days each sitting week), notices would remain listed for four sitting weeks.

Procedural motions (6.13)

Standing Order 6.13 includes a list of procedural motions. This list should not be considered exhaustive as additional motions not included may arise that are procedural in nature. Changes proposed include clarifying that the current list of motions is not exhaustive and giving the President the authority to determine a motion not on the list is procedural in nature and that it be treated as such.

1.4.4 Chapter 7 – Questions and amendments

Same question rule (7.06)

This Standing Order as written prevents the House from re-prosecuting a matter previously resolved in the affirmative. Changing ‘resolved’ to ‘defeated’ removes this barrier, while retaining the principle of the same question rule.

Restriction on moving amendments (7.09)

The practice outlined in Standing Order 7.09(2) is not consistently followed and a strict application could unduly restrict members who speak later in debates from proposing amendments. It is proposed that this Standing Order be deleted.

1.4.5 Chapter 8 – Questions seeking information

Matter not to be debated in answer (8.03)

A minor change is recommended to update this to plain English.

Supplementary questions (8.05)

The use of ‘the member’ in this Standing Order makes it unclear who may ask the supplementary question (in practice it should be the member that asked the substantive question). The use of ‘the Minister’ indicates supplementary questions are not permitted for questions directed to other members.

Minor changes are proposed to clarify these two points and match the practice of the House.

Consideration of answers (8.06)

Currently members may move that answers to questions and/or supplementary questions be taken into consideration. The Council has, in the past, agreed to take a ministers’ statement into consideration. Changes proposed to this Standing Order expand this process to include that option.

A further change clarifies that this Standing Order refers to questions without notice (as opposed to all question types).

Content of answers (8.07)

A minor change ensures the reference to the time answers are due correctly follows the introduction.

Procedure when answers/responses not provided (8.07 and 8.08)

The procedures for following up unanswered questions on notice and adjournment matters are set out in Standing Orders 8.11 and 4.14. These processes have been in place for some time. However, the newer question types introduced in Standing Orders (constituency questions and written responses to questions without notice) do not have an equivalent process set out.

Including a similar process for following up answers to each question type at the conclusion of questions without notice (in Standing Order 8.07 for written responses to questions without notice and in Standing Order 8.08 for constituency questions) provides consistency across all question types.

1.4.6 Chapter 10 – Production of documents

Order for the production of documents (10.01)

The majority of motions agreed to in the House require the Leader of the Government in the Council to provide documents. A change here includes the Clerk communicating an order for documents to the Leader of the Government in the Council (along with the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet).

Tabling of documents provided in accordance with an order for the production of documents (10.02)

There is ambiguity whether documents can only be released when the House is not sitting if they are received on the due date and that date is not a sitting day.

Currently the Clerk releases documents received on or after the due date if the House is not sitting. If received prior to their due date, documents are held onto until the House sits (unless the due date then passes between receiving and sitting).

Proposed changes provide certainty that the Clerk can release documents when the House is not sitting.

Appointment of an independent legal arbiter (10.04)

A minor change is proposed to update the “Queen’s Counsel” reference to “King’s Counsel”.

1.4.7 Chapter 11 – Petitions

Content of petitions (11.01)

Corporations are no longer required to have a common seal, as per changes to the Corporations Act. An amendment to Standing Order 11.01(1)(g) is proposed to account for these changes.

Tabling petitions (11.03)

Two changes have been proposed in Standing Order 11.03(9) to:

- Update the reference “That the petition do lie on the Table” to “That the petition be tabled” for consistency with other Standing Orders.
- Remove the question “That the petition be taken into consideration” as this has not been debated since 2014 and petition debates are now provided for under the Standing Orders where a petition exceeds a set number of signatures.

Several changes are proposed to replace Standing Order 11.03(10). The process set out in this Standing Order providing for a petition debate to occur for certain petitions was new in the 60th Parliament. In applying these rules over the last four years, some ambiguity and incorrect classifications have been identified. The following changes to this Standing Order aim to overcome these issues:

- An update to the language used in relation to the signatory thresholds clarifying that a petition that combines both paper and electronic signatures will qualify for debate provided they meet either threshold.
- Updates to the reference to the petition being listed as an ‘order of the day’ to reflect that the member is giving notice of their intention to move a motion.
- Clarifying that only one petition may be debated in the designated time for ‘Petitions (qualifying for debate)’ each Wednesday. This provides greater certainty that a future petition will not be called on for debate if the first petition debate does not take the full allocated debate time.
- The question put at the conclusion of a petition debate has been changed to indicate that the House does not endorse or oppose the petition. This change supports the purpose of a petition debate being to allow members to discuss the petition topic, as opposed to agreeing to take the action proposed.

Progressive presentation of e-petition signatures (11.05(5))

This process was originally included in Standing Orders to ensure e-petitions could be progressively tabled, just as paper petitions could. Since the introduction of signature thresholds triggering a debate and a response from the minister being required, the trend to table petitions progressively has ceased. Petitioners prefer to reach the highest number and table all signatures together.

Where a petitioner or member wanted to present an e-petition in this way, they could close and table an e-petition and then immediately submit a request for a new e-petition with the same content and start again.

Removing this Standing Order would have no effect in practice and would assist comprehension of the rules and the administrative processes.

Petitions guidance (new Standing Order)

In 2016 the Procedure Committee tabled a report recommending the inclusion of an e-petition process in the Council's Standing Orders. That report included a 'practice note' intended to provide some additional guidance on the administration of an e-petition system. This 2016 practice note is currently relied on as the source of authority for a number of practices, including publishing processes and data retention.

A new Standing Order is proposed that authorises the Procedure Committee to issue guidelines on petitions. This would allow the Council to adapt to emerging issues relating to privacy, data retention and technology via the Procedure Committee, providing greater adaptability to changing circumstances and flexibility.

1.4.8 Chapter 12 – Debate

Member moving adjournment of debate (12.08)

Minor changes to this Standing Order have been proposed for clarity.

Changing “made” to “completed” in Standing Order 12.08(1) provides a distinction from when a member has not finished their speech due to interruption of debate under 4.07.

Changing “in moving” to “before moving” in Standing Order 12.08(2) differentiates between the substantive and adjournment questions.

1.4.9 Chapter 13 – Conduct of members

Order maintained by President (13.02)

Minor changes proposed to update this Standing Order to be in the active voice.

Procedure after naming (13.05)

Standing Order 13.05(1) provides that the President will put the question “That such member be suspended from the service of the Council during the remainder of the sitting day [or for such period as the Council may think fit]”. There is no guidance for how the Council would determine a different period to propose in this question. As this question is initiated by the President, it is appropriate that the President propose the period of time.

1.4.10 Chapter 14 – Bills

Second reading (14.06 and 14.07)

Standing Orders 14.06(2) and 14.07(2) require the President to propose the question “That the bill be now read a second time” after the minister has given or incorporated their second reading speech. The proposal of this question is unnecessary. The House is already considering the second reading question and Standing Order 14.08 outlines that following the second reading speech the debate will be adjourned to a future day.

Circulation of amendments (14.10)

Members currently require leave to circulate amendments after the Committee of the whole has commenced its consideration of clause 1, which means the second reading debate is often extended to provide time for amendments to be finalised. The Committee of the whole regularly devotes significant time to clause 1, during which members may question the sponsor about the bill.

To more efficiently use the House’s time and provide members greater certainty in whether they will be permitted to circulate amendments at a later point in the proceedings, an additional Standing Order has been proposed. This would allow members to signal their intention to circulate amendments that are not yet finalised and, by leave, seek permission to circulate them before the conclusion of the consideration of clause 1 in the Committee of the whole stage. This would ensure that the member and Chamber had certainty about the existence of amendments and the ability for them to be considered, without delaying proceedings on the bill.

Urgent bills (14.35)

The requirement for the minister to ‘declare a bill to be an urgent bill’ is unnecessary and repetitive given the House votes on whether to treat a bill as urgent. The minister indicates they believe it is urgent by moving the motion and can provide their rationale as part of the debate on that motion.

Removing references to a bill being declared urgent from each paragraph in this Standing Order removes this unnecessary process.

Private bills (14.37 and 14.39)

Minor updates to these Standing Orders reflect House practice and provide consistency with other Standing Orders.

The first change reflects the practice of the House that allows second reading speeches to be incorporated in Hansard for bills as opposed to being read in full. The second change updates an outdated reference to 'laid upon the Table' which has previously been updated in other Standing Orders.

1.4.11 Chapter 15 – Committee of the whole

Rules of debate in Committee of the whole (15.06)

In recent years, the Committee of the whole has permitted debate on clause 1 of a bill to be relevant to the entire subject of the bill, including matters proposed in instructions to Committee under Standing Order 14.11, rather than limited to the clause 1 purposes of a bill as specified in Standing Order 15.06(1). The current wording in 15.06(1) is restrictive and not consistent with current practice. Changing the wording to specify that debate on clause 1 must be relevant to the subject matter of the bill permits the Committee to continue this practice.

1.4.12 Chapter 19 – Records of the Council

Hansard redactions (new Standing Order)

Requests to make redactions in Hansard have been received and considered by the Procedure Committee from time to time. The Standing Orders do not provide any authority for the President of the Procedure Committee to order redactions to be made.

A proposed new Standing Order (19.06) provides a process for the Procedure Committee to consider requests for redactions from a tabled document (including a petition), Council Hansard, a transcript from a former Council committee, or official broadcast footage of the Council Chamber or a Council Committee, on safety or security grounds.

1.4.13 Chapter 21 – Privilege and Right of reply

Right of reply (21.04)

There are inconsistencies in relation to a 'person' or 'organisation' making a request under this Standing Order. A change to the title of this Standing Order is suggested, along with a minor change to update Standing Order 21.04(b) to ensure consistency with the preceding Standing Order.

1.4.14 Chapter 23 – Council committees

Privileges Committee functions (23.02)

Changes here are intended to reflect the newly enlarged functions of the Privileges Committee brought in with the *Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Act 2024*. Proposed changes make it clear that the Council, the President and the Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Commission (PWSIC) are able to refer matters to the Privileges Committee.

Allocation of Government departments by resolution of House (23.03)

The requirement for the House to allocate government departments and agencies to standing committees by resolution has in the past introduced confusion and discrepancy between these allocations and the subject matter allocation between standing committees contained in the Standing Orders.

Removing this requirement to allocate departments and agencies from the Standing Orders would not change the House's ability to move such a motion if it chose to.

Referrals to standing committees (23.04)

Changes to this Standing Order intend to remove grammar issues.

Committee membership (23.05, 23.07 and 23.08)

Standing Orders are unclear in relation to whether participating and substitute members can be appointed to the procedure, privileges and select committees.

Standing Order 23.05(3) is not specific in relation to appointing participating members to a type of committee. Standing Orders 23.07 and 23.08 suggest participating and substitute membership types only apply to standing committees.

Changes here are intended to clarify that participating and substitute membership applies to both standing and select committees (but not procedure or privileges committees).

Committee meetings (23.12)

Minor wording changes here provide greater certainty that a committee must set their next meeting.

1.4.15 Joint standing orders

The *Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation Act 2011* has been repealed and the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation has been abolished. Therefore, Joint Standing Order 25 relating to joint sittings under the *Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation Act 2011* is no longer required.

1.4.16 Resolution of continuing effect

The Parliamentary Integrity Adviser (PIA) position is now provided for under the *Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Act 2024*.

The resolution adopted by the Council on 30 April 2019 originally establishing the PIA can be rescinded.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the Legislative Council rescind all current Temporary Orders.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Legislative Council adopt the proposed changes to Standing Orders in Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1 to take effect from 1 December 2026.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the Legislative Council rescind Joint Standing Order 25 and send a message to the Legislative Assembly seeking their agreement.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the Legislative Council rescind the resolution of continuing effect adopted on 30 April 2019 relating to the Parliamentary Integrity Adviser and send a Message to the Legislative Assembly seeking their agreement.

Chapter 2

Temporary and Sessional Orders

2.1 Temporary Orders

Temporary Orders were made during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21. They were agreed to operate until the House resolved otherwise.

Some are no longer required and others should be adopted as Standing Orders.

The Committee recommends that all Temporary Orders be rescinded and has proposed changes to Standing Orders that incorporate certain ones as new or amended Standing Orders. The recommended approach for each Temporary Order is outlined in the Table below.

Table 2.1 Temporary Orders

Temporary Order	Recommendation
1 Definition of ‘their place/s’ The interpretation of ‘their place’ and ‘their places’ in the Standing Orders will be at the Chair’s discretion.	Rescind Temporary Order.
2 Incorporation of notices of motion (1) Members may submit notices of motion in writing for publication on the Notice Paper. (2) Members may submit notices of motion by – (a) providing them electronically to the Clerk (by email to council@parliament.vic.gov.au) by 10.00 a.m. on a sitting day; and (b) stating that the notice is for incorporation and request that the motion be published on the Notice Paper. (3) The House authorises and requires notices of motion submitted in writing to be treated the same as any notices given verbally in the House.	Rescind Temporary Order.

Temporary Order	Recommendation
3 Business that may be incorporated in Hansard (1) If a Member wishes to incorporate — (a) Members' statements; (b) constituency questions; (c) adjournment debate matters; (d) their second reading speech of any bills debated; and/or (e) their contribution to any Government or General Business motion moved; they may provide them electronically to the Clerk (by email to council@parliament.vic.gov.au) by the adjournment of the House. (2) The Clerk may only accept matters up to the number allocated for that day and as allocated between the parties and independents, in conjunction with any matters verbally given in the House. (3) The House authorises and requires matters to be published in Hansard at the point in the proceedings/order of business that the item would have occurred. (4) All incorporated material to be published in Hansard is subject to the Hansard editorial policy. (5) If any submitted incorporated material contains unbecoming expressions or does not comply with the rules of debate, the President may direct that the matter be removed or amended before it is published.	Rescind Temporary Order and amend Standing Orders as follows: Insert the following new Standing Order after Standing Order 12.15: "12.16 Incorporation of contributions in Hansard (1) A member may incorporate their speech and/or contribution in Hansard for — (a) members' statements; (b) constituency questions; (c) adjournment debate matters; (d) the second reading debate of any bill debated; and/or (e) any government or general business motion moved; by providing the contribution electronically to the Clerk before the House adjourns for the sitting day. (2) The Clerk may only accept contributions up to the number allocated for that sitting day and as allocated between the parties and independent members. Matters given in the House will take precedence over contributions submitted for incorporation. (3) Contributions must comply with all relevant rules of debate and time limits and are subject to the Hansard editorial policy. Any contribution or part of a contribution that, in the opinion of the President, contains material not in conformity with the Standing Orders may be omitted prior to incorporation in Hansard by order of the President. (4) The House authorises and requires matters to be published in Hansard at the point in the proceedings that the item would have occurred."

Temporary Order	Recommendation
4 Divisions Standing Orders 16.02 and 16.04 be suspended and the following will apply – (1) Immediately after a division has been demanded, the Clerk will ring the bells for four minutes, except in the following circumstance: (a) In the instance that a division is demanded and the Chair is of the opinion that only one Member or one minor party is dissenting from the majority, the division bells will not be immediately rung, instead the following procedure will occur: (i) The Chair will request that the dissenting Member or Members agree to have their dissent recorded in the Minutes of the Proceedings; (ii) If any Member declines this request a formal division will take place, the Clerk will ring the bells for four minutes and a division will occur as per the procedures set out in paragraphs (2) to (7). (2) At the expiration of four minutes no Member will enter or leave the Chamber until after the result of the division has been declared. (3) Every Member present in the Chamber when the question is put will be required to vote. (4) The Chair will repeat the question that the House is dividing on and will ask Members who are voting ‘Aye’ to stand in their place and in turn will ask Members who are voting ‘No’ to stand in their place. (5) The Chair will not ask Members to be seated again until the Clerks at the Table have confirmed that they have counted all the votes. (6) All Members will only be entitled to vote for either the ‘Ayes’ or the ‘Noes’. (7) The Clerks at the Table will report the numbers to the Chair, who will declare the result to the Council.	Rescind Temporary Order and amend Standing Orders as follows: Omit Standing Order 16.02 and replace it with the following new Standing Order: “16.02 Procedure for a division (1) Immediately after a division has been called, the Clerk will ring the bells for four minutes. (2) When successive divisions occur without any intervening debate, the Chair may direct that the bells for the ensuing divisions be rung for one minute only. (3) When the bells have stopped ringing, the doors will be closed and locked. No member will enter or leave the Chamber until after the result of the division has been declared. (4) Every member present in the Chamber when the question is put will be required to vote. (5) The Chair will repeat the question that the House is dividing on and will ask members who are voting ‘Aye’ to stand in their place and in turn will ask members who are voting ‘No’ to stand in their place. Where a member is unable to stand, the Chair may permit another method to signify their vote. (6) The Chair will not ask members to be seated again until the Clerks at the Table have confirmed that they have counted all the votes. (7) All members will only be entitled to vote for either the ‘Ayes’ or the ‘Noes’. (8) The Clerks at the Table will report the numbers to the Chair, who will declare the result to the Council.”. Omit Standing Order 16.04 and renumber accordingly.
5 Acting Presidents (1) In the event that the President and Deputy President are absent from duty during the sitting of the House (for whatever reason), Acting Presidents may perform the duties and exercise the authority of the President while presiding over proceedings of the Council. (2) During an adjournment of the Council, if both the President and Deputy President are absent from duty (for whatever reason), the President or Deputy President may, in writing to the Clerk, nominate an Acting President to perform all duties and exercise the authority of the President during this absence.	Rescind Temporary Order and amend Standing Orders as follows: Omit Standing Order 2.13 and replace it with the following new Standing Order: “2.13 Absence of President and Deputy President (1) During any absence of the President, the Deputy President will perform the duties and exercise the authority of the President in relation to all proceedings of the Council until the return of the President or until the Council decides otherwise. (2) If both the President and the Deputy President are absent from the House for a sitting day, the House may elect a member to act as Deputy President until either the President or the Deputy President is present. (3) The election is conducted in the same way as the election of the President.”.

Temporary Order	Recommendation
6 Discretion in ringing the bells to form a quorum (1) At the start of each day a quorum of 14 members must be present in the Chamber in order for the President to take the Chair and the sitting to proceed. (2) To assist with social distancing, the House gives the Chair further discretion in ringing the bells to form a quorum during the course of the sitting day under Standing Order 4.03(2), provided the Chair is confident that a quorum is present within the parliamentary precinct.	Rescind Temporary Order and amend Standing Order 4.03 as follows: Omit Standing Order 4.03 and replace it with the following new Standing Order: “4.03 Lack of quorum (1) If, after 30 minutes from the time appointed for the sitting of the Council there is no quorum present, the President will take the Chair and adjourn the Council to the next sitting day. (2) If a member draws attention to the lack of a quorum when the House is sitting, the Chair must count the members present and, if there is no quorum, the following shall occur — (a) the bells are rung for up to 10 minutes with the doors unlocked; (b) no member may leave the Chamber; (c) if, after the bells have been rung, the President is of the opinion that a quorum will not be formed, the President must adjourn the House until the next sitting day. (3) If the lack of a quorum becomes clear on the report of a division no decision will be considered to have been reached and the President must immediately follow the procedure set out in Standing Order 4.03(2)(a) to (c). (4) The Chair may recommence the sitting of the Council following a suspension provided the Chair is confident that a quorum is present within the parliamentary precinct.”.
7 Members may incorporate their speeches for bills (1) If a Member wishes to incorporate their speech for the debate of the second reading of any bills debated they must electronically provide their speech to the Clerk (by email to council@parliament.vic.gov.au) by the time the House adjourns on the day the bill was debated. (2) Incorporated speeches will be published in Hansard after all second reading speeches made in the House (if any) for each Bill and before the Minister’s reply (if any). (3) If any matter contains unbecoming expressions or does not comply with the rules of debate, the President may direct that the matter be removed or amended before it is published.	Rescind Temporary Order.

2.2 Sessional Orders

Sessional Orders are made throughout the Parliament and automatically expire at the end of the session.

The Committee discussed each of the Sessional Orders that were adopted during the 60th Parliament and has determined that certain ones should lapse, while others should be incorporated in the Standing Orders. The recommended approach for each Sessional Order is outlined in the Table below.

Table 2.2 Sessional Orders

Sessional Order	Recommendation
1 Interruption of debate — Messages In Standing Order 4.07(7) for “will” substitute “may”.	Retain by amending the Standing Orders as follows: In Standing Order 4.07(7) omit “will” and replace it with “may”.
2 Order of business Standing Orders 5.02(2) and (3) are suspended and the following order of business will apply on Wednesday — Messages Formal business Members’ statements (up to 15 members) Private member bills – moving second readings of bills for which precedence has been ordered Short form documents motions (up to 2 motions) General business At 12.00 noon Questions General business (continues) At 5.15 pm, or after 300 minutes of general business has elapsed (whichever is later) Statements on tabled papers and petitions (30 minutes) Petitions (qualifying for debate) (30 minutes) Government business (maximum 60 minutes) Adjournment (up to 20 members)	Lapse. The House may adopt an appropriate Sessional Order in the new Parliament.

Sessional Order	Recommendation																																																																														
3 Time limits (1) Standing Order 5.03 Time limits — <i>Budget debate</i> is suspended and the following will apply: <table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Budget debate</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total time</td><td>No limit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Government lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Opposition lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other lead speakers</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining speakers</td><td>15 minutes</td></tr> </table> (2) Standing Order 5.03 Time limits — <i>General business</i> (Standing Order 5.07) is suspended and the following will apply: <table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>General business</i> (Standing Order 5.07)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total time</td><td>90 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mover/Sponsor</td><td>20 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lead speakers</td><td>10 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining speakers</td><td>10 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mover/Sponsor, in reply</td><td>5 minutes</td></tr> </table> (3) In Standing Order 5.03 Time limits, insert the following: <table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Private member bills — second reading debate</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total time</td><td>No limit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mover/Sponsor</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Government lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other lead speakers</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining speakers</td><td>15 minutes</td></tr> </table> (4) Standing Order 5.03 Time limits — <i>Government bills — second reading debate</i> is suspended and the following will apply: <table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Government bills — second reading debate</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total time</td><td>No limit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Government lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Opposition lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other lead speakers</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining speakers</td><td>15 minutes</td></tr> </table> (5) Standing Order 5.03 Time limits — <i>Government business</i> (Standing Order 5.06) is suspended and the following will apply: <table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Government business</i> (Standing Order 5.06)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total time</td><td>No limit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Government lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Opposition lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other lead speakers</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining speakers</td><td>15 minutes</td></tr> </table> (6) Standing Order 5.03 Time limits — <i>Statements on tabled papers and petitions</i> (Standing Order 9.10) is suspended and the following will apply: <table> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>Statements on tabled papers and petitions</i> (Standing Order 9.10)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total time</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>(a member with the call at the expiration of the total time will be permitted to complete their contribution)</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Each member</td><td>5 minutes</td></tr> </table>	<i>Budget debate</i>		Total time	No limit	Main Government lead speaker	30 minutes	Main Opposition lead speaker	30 minutes	Other lead speakers	30 minutes	Remaining speakers	15 minutes	<i>General business</i> (Standing Order 5.07)		Total time	90 minutes	Mover/Sponsor	20 minutes	Lead speakers	10 minutes	Remaining speakers	10 minutes	Mover/Sponsor, in reply	5 minutes	<i>Private member bills — second reading debate</i>		Total time	No limit	Mover/Sponsor	30 minutes	Main Government lead speaker	30 minutes	Other lead speakers	30 minutes	Remaining speakers	15 minutes	<i>Government bills — second reading debate</i>		Total time	No limit	Main Government lead speaker	30 minutes	Main Opposition lead speaker	30 minutes	Other lead speakers	30 minutes	Remaining speakers	15 minutes	<i>Government business</i> (Standing Order 5.06)		Total time	No limit	Main Government lead speaker	30 minutes	Main Opposition lead speaker	30 minutes	Other lead speakers	30 minutes	Remaining speakers	15 minutes	<i>Statements on tabled papers and petitions</i> (Standing Order 9.10)		Total time	30 minutes	<i>(a member with the call at the expiration of the total time will be permitted to complete their contribution)</i>		Each member	5 minutes	Remove 'Budget debate' time limits from Standing Orders. Sessional Orders for time limits relating to — • General business • Private member bills – second reading debate • Statements on tabled papers and petitions — to lapse. The House may adopt an appropriate Sessional Order in the new Parliament to alter these. Retain Sessional Order time limits for — • Government bills – second reading debate • Government business. Amend Standing Orders as follows: In Standing Order 5.03, omit the time limits associated with "Budget debate". In Standing Order 5.03, for time limits associated with "Government bills – second reading debate" and "Government business", omit the times and replace them with: <table> <tr> <td>"Total time"</td><td>No limit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Government lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main Opposition lead speaker</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other lead speakers</td><td>30 minutes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Remaining speakers</td><td>15 minutes".</td></tr> </table>	"Total time"	No limit	Main Government lead speaker	30 minutes	Main Opposition lead speaker	30 minutes	Other lead speakers	30 minutes	Remaining speakers	15 minutes".
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Sessional Order	Recommendation
4 Disorderly conduct — Member ordered to withdraw: application during questions without notice Notwithstanding Standing Order 13.03(2), if — (1) a member is ordered to withdraw from the House under Standing Order 13.03(1) during questions without notice; and (2) the time for questions without notice concludes before the expiration of the suspension period— the member may return to the Chamber at the conclusion of question time and must serve the remainder of their suspension during the next occurrence of questions without notice.	Retain by amending the Standing Orders as follows: After Standing Order 13.03(2), insert the following new Standing Order: “(3) If a member is ordered to withdraw from the House under this Standing Order during questions without notice and the time for questions without notice concludes before the expiration of the suspension period the member may return to the Chamber at the conclusion of questions without notice and must serve the remainder of their suspension during the next occurrence of questions without notice.”. Renumber Standing Orders 13.03(3) and (4) accordingly.
5 Standing Committees — membership Standing Order 23.05(1) is suspended to the extent necessary to allow the following committees to consist of the following number of members: (1) Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee will consist of nine members; and (2) Environment and Planning Standing Committee will consist of nine members.	Lapse. The House may adopt an appropriate Sessional Order in the new Parliament.
6 Production of documents – short form documents motions After Standing Order 10.01(3) insert: (4) A motion under this Standing Order (other than a motion that imposes a sanction) may be treated by the Council as a short form documents motion. The following short form documents motion procedures will apply — (a) a member must advise of the intention for the motion to be treated by the Council as a short form documents motion at the time of giving notice under Standing Order 6.01; (b) a maximum of two motions under this Sessional Order may be — (i) moved by non-government members and debated each Wednesday; (ii) moved by government members and debated on Tuesday and Thursday; (c) if additional notices above the number permitted for debate each sitting day are given for short form documents motions, they will be listed on subsequent sitting days in the order that notice was given; (d) a motion proposed to be debated under this Sessional Order will take precedence on — (i) Tuesday and Thursday at the time prescribed for government business; (ii) Wednesday at the time prescribed for short form documents motions in Sessional Order 2; (e) the following time limits will apply to a short form documents motion — (i) the mover of the motion may speak only once for up to six minutes; (ii) any other member may speak for up to five minutes; (iii) the total time for consideration of the motion will be up to 20 minutes; and (f) at the conclusion of debate or after 20 minutes of debate (whichever occurs first), the President will put all questions necessary to dispose of the motion and any amendments.	Lapse. The House may adopt an appropriate Sessional Order in the new Parliament.

Sessional Order	Recommendation
7 Production of documents – variation of scope After Standing Order 10.01 insert: (1) The Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, may write to the Clerk at any time up to and including the seventh day prior to the date for the return of documents and request that the scope of an order be varied. (2) A request to vary the scope of an order for the production of documents must include reasons why the scope of the order should be varied, which may include but are not limited to – (a) why the timeframe for the production of the documents cannot be met; and/or (b) why the terms of the order are likely to result in the production of a large number of documents reasonably believed to be irrelevant to the intent of the order for documents. (3) The Clerk will provide the request and any accompanying documents to the President and the member who moved the original order for documents. The Clerk will advise all members and publish notification that a request has been received. (4) When a request under this Sessional Order is received – (a) the original order and the date for return of documents is suspended; and (b) if – (i) the request is rejected, the original order stands and the documents ordered are to be produced to the House by the original due date, or if that date has passed, within a further seven calendar days, and the Clerk will advise all members and publish any correspondence received relating to the rejection; (ii) agreement is not reached within 14 calendar days, the original order stands and the documents ordered are to be produced to the House by the original due date, or if that date has passed, within a further seven calendar days, and the Clerk will advise all members and publish notification that the request has lapsed; (iii) an agreement is reached between the member and the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and is certified by the President, the Clerk will advise all members and publish the terms of the agreement, the President's certification, and any correspondence received relating to the agreement. (5) On the next sitting day, at the start of formal business, the President will report the agreement to the House and table all relevant documents. (6) The President will then propose the question to the House "That the varied terms of the order be agreed to". This question may not be amended or debated except for the member who moved the original order and a Minister may make a statement of up to 5 minutes each. (7) If the question is resolved in the negative, the original order remains in force.	Retain by amending the Standing Orders as follows: After Standing Order 10.01 insert the following new Standing Order: "10.02 Variation of scope (1) The Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, may write to the Clerk at any time up to and including the seventh day prior to the date for the return of documents and request that the scope of an order be varied. (2) A request to vary the scope of an order for the production of documents must include reasons why the scope of the order should be varied, which may include but are not limited to – (a) why the timeframe for the production of the documents cannot be met; and/or (b) why the terms of the order are likely to result in the production of a large number of documents reasonably believed to be irrelevant to the intent of the order for documents. (3) The Clerk will provide the request and any accompanying documents to the President and the member who moved the original order for documents. The Clerk will advise all members and publish notification that a request has been received. (4) When a request under this Sessional Order is received – (a) the original order and the date for return of documents is suspended; and (b) if – (i) the request is rejected, the original order stands and the documents ordered are to be produced to the House by the original due date, or if that date has passed, within a further seven calendar days, and the Clerk will advise all members and publish any correspondence received relating to the rejection; (ii) agreement is not reached within 14 calendar days, the original order stands and the documents ordered are to be produced to the House by the original due date, or if that date has passed, within a further seven calendar days, and the Clerk will advise all members and publish notification that the request has lapsed; (iii) an agreement is reached between the member and the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and is certified by the President, the Clerk will advise all members and publish the terms of the agreement, the President's certification, and any correspondence received relating to the agreement. (5) On the next sitting day, at the start of formal business, the President will report the agreement to the House and table all relevant documents. (6) The President will then propose the question to the House "That the varied terms of the order be agreed to". This question may not be amended or debated except for the member who moved the original order and a Minister may make a statement of up to 5 minutes each. (7) If the question is resolved in the negative, the original order remains in force." Renumber remaining Standing Orders in Chapter 10 accordingly.

Chapter 3

Standing Orders

3.1 Standing Orders

Table 3.1 Standing Orders

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
4.07 Interruption of debate (1) Unless a motion to adjourn has already been moved by a Minister pursuant to Standing Order 4.06, the President will interrupt the business before the House — (a) at 10.00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday; (b) at 7.00 pm on Wednesday; (c) at 5.30 pm on Wednesday if a joint sitting has been scheduled for 6.15 pm on that day; (d) at 4.00 pm on Friday.	Omit 4.07(1)(b) and (c) and replace it with: “(b) at the conclusion of 30 minutes of Government business on Wednesday or the conclusion of 60 minutes of Statements on tabled papers and petitions on a Wednesday if a joint sitting has been scheduled for 6.15 pm;”. Renumber accordingly.	4.07 Interruption of debate (1) Unless a motion to adjourn has already been moved by a Minister pursuant to Standing Order 4.06, the President will interrupt the business before the House — (a) at 10.00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday; (b) at the conclusion of 30 minutes of Government business on Wednesday or at the conclusion of 60 minutes of Statements on tabled papers and petitions on a Wednesday if a joint sitting has been scheduled for 6.15 pm; (c) at 4.00 pm on Friday.
4.07 Interruption of debate (2) If the House is in Committee of the whole the Deputy President will report progress and the President will then interrupt such business.	Omit 4.07(2) and replace it with: “(2) If the House is in Committee of the whole and no declared extension is made or motion to extend the sitting moved and agreed to, the Deputy President will report progress and the President will then interrupt such business.”.	4.07 Interruption of debate (2) If the House is in Committee of the whole and no declared extension is made or motion to extend the sitting moved and agreed to, the Deputy President will report progress and the President will then interrupt such business.
4.08 Extension of sitting (1) Upon any interruption of business pursuant to Standing Order 4.07 and before a motion for the adjournment of the Council under Standing Order 4.09 is proposed by the President, a Minister may, on a Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday — ... (ii) at the conclusion of an extension of time declared under Standing Order 4.08(1)(b)(i), a Minister may move that the sitting be extended. The motion will be put forthwith without amendment or debate. (2) A declared extension in accordance with Standing Order 4.08(1)(b) may be made by the Minister at the Table during Committee of the whole.	Omit 4.08(2) and replace it with: “(2) A motion moved or a declaration made in accordance with Standing Order 4.08(1) may be made by the Minister at the Table during Committee of the whole.”.	4.08 Extension of sitting (2) A motion moved or a declaration made in accordance with Standing Order 4.08(1) may be made by the Minister at the Table during Committee of the whole.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
4.09 Adjournment proposed by President Unless the sitting is extended under Standing Order 4.08, the President will propose the question “That the House do now adjourn”. Such question may not be amended.	Omit Standing Order 4.09 and replace it with: “Where — (a) the time prescribed for the Adjournment has been reached; or (b) the allocated time for items in the order of business has exceeded; or (c) a declared extension has concluded and no further extension is made or motion to extend the sitting agreed to — the President will propose the question ‘That the House do now adjourn’. Such question may not be amended.”.	4.09 Adjournment proposed by President Where — (a) the time prescribed for the Adjournment has been reached; or (b) the allocated time for items in the order of business has exceeded; or (c) a declared extension has concluded and no further extension is made or motion to extend the sitting agreed to — the President will propose the question ‘That the House do now adjourn’. Such question may not be amended.
5.02 Order of business – Wednesday Messages Formal business Members’ statements (up to 15 members) General business At 12.00 noon Questions General business (continues) At 5.00 pm Statements on tabled papers and petitions (60 minutes) Petitions (qualifying for debate) (30 minutes) Government business (30 minutes) At 7.00 pm Adjournment (up to 20 members)	In Standing Order 5.02, in “Order of business – On Wednesday” replace “at 5.00 pm” with “No later than 5.00 pm” and omit “At 7.00 pm”. In Standing Order 5.02, in “Order of business – On Wednesday, if a joint sitting has been scheduled for 6.15 pm on that day” replace “at 4.30 pm” with “No later than 4.30 pm” and omit “At 5.30 pm”.	5.02 Order of business (2) On Wednesday — Messages Formal business Members’ statements (up to 15 members) General business At 12.00 noon Questions General business (continues) No later than 5.00 pm Statements on tabled papers and petitions (60 minutes) Petitions (qualifying for debate) (30 minutes) Government business (30 minutes) Adjournment (up to 20 members) (3) On Wednesday, if a joint sitting has been scheduled for 6.15 pm on that day — Messages Formal business Members’ statements (up to 15 members) General business At 12.00 noon Questions General business (continues) No later than 4.30 pm Statements on tabled papers and petitions (60 minutes) Adjournment (up to 20 members)
5.07 General Business (2) General business will take precedence over all other business on Wednesdays in accordance with the order of business prescribed by Standing Order 5.02.	In Standing Order 5.07, after “order of business prescribed by Standing Order 5.02” insert “, except for special business pursuant to Standing Order 5.08.”.	5.07 General business (2) General business will take precedence over all other business on Wednesdays in accordance with the order of business prescribed by Standing Order 5.02, except for special business pursuant to Standing Order 5.08.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
5.12 Condolences (1) Precedence will ordinarily be given by courtesy to a motion of condolence in the event of the death of — (a) a member of the current Parliament; or (b) a past or present Governor, Premier, Presiding Officer, Minister, or party leader in either House; or (c) former members of the Council, subject to the agreement of the party leaders. (2) Precedence may be given by leave to a motion of condolence in the event of the death of a person who had previous distinguished service in Victoria. (3) At the conclusion of a condolence motion, members will be asked to rise in their places for one minute's silence as a mark of respect. (4) Unless otherwise ordered, the Council will — (a) adjourn for the remainder of the sitting in respect of a member of the current Parliament; or (b) suspend its proceedings for one hour, in respect of all other persons referred to in Standing Order 5.12(1)(b). (5) The President will announce the death of former members of the Council not referred to in Standing Order 5.12(1), and members will rise in their places for one minute's silence as a mark of respect.	Omit Standing Order 5.12(4) and replace it with the following: “(4) The Council — (a) will then adjourn for the remainder of the sitting in respect of a member of the current Parliament; or (b) may consider a motion moved by a minister, without leave, for a suspension of a specified period of time in respect of all other persons referred to in Standing Order 5.12(1)(b). The Chair will put this question forthwith without amendment or debate.”. After Standing Order 5.12(5) insert the following new Standing Order: “(6) A member or former member may notify the Clerk that they do not want a condolence motion to be moved in the event of their death. On the occasion of their death the Clerk will advise the President and relevant party leaders of their wishes.”.	5.12 Condolences (1) Precedence will ordinarily be given by courtesy to a motion of condolence in the event of the death of — (a) a member of the current Parliament; or (b) a past or present Governor, Premier, Presiding Officer, Minister, or party leader in either House; or (c) former members of the Council, subject to the agreement of the party leaders. (2) Precedence may be given by leave to a motion of condolence in the event of the death of a person who had previous distinguished service in Victoria. (3) At the conclusion of a condolence motion, members will be asked to rise in their places for one minute's silence as a mark of respect. (4) The Council — (a) will then adjourn for the remainder of the sitting in respect of a member of the current Parliament; or (b) may consider a motion moved by a minister, without leave, for a suspension of a specified period of time in respect of all other persons referred to in Standing Order 5.12(1)(b). The Chair will put this question forthwith without amendment or debate. (5) The President will announce the death of former members of the Council not referred to in Standing Order 5.12(1), and members will rise in their places for one minute's silence as a mark of respect. (6) A member or former member may notify the Clerk that they do not want a condolence motion to be moved in the event of their death. On the occasion of their death the Clerk will advise the President and relevant party leaders of their wishes.
6.08 Discharge of business from the Notice Paper (1) A notice of motion...will be discharged from the Notice Paper after it has been listed for 20 consecutive sitting days.	In Standing Order 6.08(1) omit “20 consecutive sitting days” and replace it with “12 consecutive sitting days”.	6.08 Discharge of business from the Notice Paper (1) A notice of motion and an order of the day, other than for the consideration of a bill or an item standing in a Minister's name, will be discharged from the Notice Paper after it has been listed for 12 consecutive sitting days.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
6.13 Procedural motions The time limit for procedural motions is prescribed by Standing Order 5.03. A procedural motion is defined as — (a) to (v).	In Standing Order 6.13, omit the lead in paragraph and replace it with: “(1) The time limit for procedural motions is prescribed by Standing Order 5.03. (2) A procedural motion includes, but is not limited to, the following —”. In Standing Order 6.13, after paragraph (v), insert the following new paragraph: “(3) The President is authorised to determine that a motion not included in this Standing Order be debated as a procedural motion.”.	6.13 Procedural motions (1) The time limit for procedural motions is prescribed by Standing Order 5.03. (2) A procedural motion includes, but is not limited to, the following — (a) a motion to set the day and time of the next meeting of the Council pursuant to Standing Order 4.01(2); (b) a motion to take note of a Minister’s explanation as to why a response to an adjournment matter has not been provided pursuant to Standing Order 4.14(1)(b); (c) a motion for the postponement of notices of motion pursuant to Standing Order 6.03; (d) a motion for the discharge of an order of the day pursuant to Standing Order 6.08(3); (e) a motion for the postponement of an order of the day pursuant to Standing Order 6.12; (f) a motion for the revival of a dropped motion or order of the day pursuant to Standing Order 6.14; (g) a motion “That this question be not now put” pursuant to Standing Order 7.03; (h) a motion to read and rescind a resolution of the Council pursuant to Standing Order 7.07; (i) a motion that an answer to a question or supplementary question without notice be taken into consideration pursuant to Standing Order 8.06; (j) a motion that a paper be published and/or taken into consideration pursuant to Standing Order 9.07; (k) a motion that a member “be now heard” pursuant to Standing Order 12.03; (l) a motion that the debate be now adjourned pursuant to Standing Order 12.08; (m) a motion to incorporate in Hansard a second reading speech for a bill that has originated in the Council pursuant to Standing Order 14.06;

(continued)

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
		6.13 Procedural motions (<i>continued</i>) (n) a motion providing an instruction to a Committee of the whole pursuant to Standing Order 14.11; (o) a motion to refer a bill in government business to a parliamentary committee pursuant to Standing Order 14.12(b); (p) a motion to defer Committee of the whole to a later time pursuant to Standing Order 14.12(d); (q) a motion for the adoption of the report from the Committee of the whole pursuant to Standing Order 14.17; (r) a motion setting the time for a bill to be further considered in Committee of the whole pursuant to Standing Order 14.17(5); (s) a motion to reconsider a bill in Committee of the whole pursuant to Standing Order 14.18; (t) a motion to declare a bill urgent pursuant to Standing Order 14.35; (u) a motion that a bill ruled to be a private bill be dealt with as a public bill pursuant to Standing Order 14.37; (v) a motion that the Deputy President report progress and ask leave to sit again pursuant to Standing Order 15.05(5). (3) The President is authorised to determine that a motion not included in this Standing Order be debated as a procedural motion.
7.06 Same question not to be proposed again No question will be proposed in the Council which is the same in substance as any question which has been resolved during the previous six months in the same Session.	In Standing Order 7.06, omit “resolved” and replace it with “defeated”.	7.06 Same question not to be proposed again No question will be proposed in the Council which is the same in substance as any question which has been defeated during the previous six months in the same Session.
7.09 Restrictions on moving amendments (2) No amendment will be proposed in any part of a question after a later part has been amended, or has been proposed to be amended, unless (in the latter case) the proposed amendment has been withdrawn by leave of the Council.	Omit Standing Order 7.09(2) and renumber 7.09(3) accordingly.	7.09 Restrictions on moving of amendments (1) No amendment will be proposed if it is the same in substance as an amendment already determined to the same question, or would have the effect only of reversing an amendment already agreed to by the Council. (2) No amendment will be proposed to be made to any words which the Council has resolved will stand part of a question, except the addition of other words to the question.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
8.03 Matter not to be debated in answer In answering any such question, the Minister or member will not debate the matter to which it refers.	Omit Standing Order 8.03 and replace it with the following: "8.03 No debate in answers In answering a question, a member must not debate it."	8.03 No debate in answers In answering a question, a member must not debate it.
8.05 Supplementary questions (1) At the conclusion of each answer the member may ask a supplementary question of the Minister to elucidate or clarify the answer. (2) Supplementary questions must be actually and accurately related to the original question and must relate to or arise from the Minister's response.	In Standing Order 8.05(1), after "the member" insert "who asked the substantive question". In Standing Order 8.05(1), omit "of the Minister". In Standing Order 8.05(2), omit "Minister's".	8.05 Supplementary questions (1) At the conclusion of each answer the member who asked the substantive question may ask a supplementary question to elucidate or clarify the answer. (2) Supplementary questions must be actually and accurately related to the original question and must relate to or arise from the response.
8.06 Consideration of answers On motion without notice the Council may order that an answer to a question and/or supplementary question be taken into consideration on a future day.	Omit Standing Order 8.06 and replace it with the following: "8.06 Consideration of answers and ministers' statements On motion without notice the Council may order that an answer or answers to a question without notice, and/or supplementary question, or a minister's statement be taken into consideration on a future day."	8.06 Consideration of answers and ministers' statements On motion without notice the Council may order that an answer or answers to a question without notice, and/or supplementary question, or a minister's statement be taken into consideration on a future day.
8.07 Content of answers (5) and (6) Written responses to questions directed to a Council Minister's portfolio will be required to be lodged within one/two business day/s — (a) at least 15 minutes prior to the time scheduled for Questions if they are due on a sitting day; or (b) 12.00 noon if they are due on a day when the Council is not sitting.	In Standing Order 8.07(5)(b), before "12.00 noon" insert "at". In Standing Order 8.07(6)(b), before "12.00 noon" insert "at".	8.07 Content of answers (5) Written responses to questions directed to a Council Minister's portfolio will be required to be lodged within one business day — (a) at least 15 minutes prior to the time scheduled for Questions if they are due on a sitting day; or (b) at 12.00 noon if they are due on a day when the Council is not sitting. (6) Written responses to questions directed to a Minister representing a Minister from the Assembly will be required to be lodged within two business days — (a) at least 15 minutes prior to the time scheduled for Questions if they are due on a sitting day; or (b) at 12.00 noon if they are due on a day when the Council is not sitting.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
8.07 Content of answers 8.08 Constituency questions There is no procedure in the Standing Orders to follow up overdue answers to constituency questions or written responses ordered for questions without notice.	After Standing Order 8.07(6), insert the following: “(7) If a Minister does not provide a written response to a question without notice within the ordered timeframe, the asking member may — (a) prior to the commencement of constituency questions on a Wednesday, ask the relevant minister for an explanation; and (b) at the conclusion of any such explanation the member may move, without notice, “That the Council take note of the explanation.”.” After Standing Order 8.08(5), insert the following: “(6) If a Minister does not provide an answer to a constituency question within 14 days — (a) the asking non-government member on a Wednesday and government member on a Thursday may, prior to the commencement of constituency questions, ask the relevant minister for an explanation; and (b) at the conclusion of any such explanation the member may move, without notice, “That the Council take note of the explanation.”.”	8.07 Content of answers (7) If a Minister does not provide a written response to a question without notice within the ordered timeframe, the member who asked the question may — (a) prior to the commencement of constituency questions on a Wednesday, ask the relevant minister for an explanation; and (b) at the conclusion of any such explanation the member may move, without notice, “That the Council take note of the explanation.”. 8.08 Constituency questions (6) If a Minister does not provide an answer to a constituency question within 14 days — (a) on a Wednesday a non-government member who asked the question, and on a Thursday a government member who asked the question, may, prior to the commencement of constituency questions, ask the relevant Minister for an explanation; and (b) at the conclusion of any such explanation the member may move, without notice, “That the Council take note of the explanation.”.
10.01 Order for the production of documents (2) The Clerk to communicate to the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, all orders for documents made by the Council.	In Standing Order 10.01(2), after “communicate to the” insert “Leader of the Government in the Council and the”.	10.01 Order for the production of documents (2) The Clerk is to communicate to the Leader of the Government in the Council and the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet all orders for documents made by the Council.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
10.02 Tabling of documents provided in accordance with an order for the production of documents (1) Documents provided in response to an order under Standing Order 10.01 will be delivered to the Clerk. (2) Upon receipt, such documents will be presented to the Council by the Clerk at the earliest opportunity. (3) A return under this Standing Order is to include an indexed list of all documents identified, showing the date of creation of the document, a description of the document and the author of the document. (4) If the Council is not sitting on the date specified in the resolution of the Council under Standing Order 10.01(3), the documents may be lodged with the Clerk, and unless Executive privilege is claimed, are deemed to have been presented to the Council and published by authority of the Legislative Council. (5) Documents lodged under Standing Order 10.02(4) must be presented to the Council by the Clerk on the next sitting day of the Council.	Omit Standing Order 10.02(2) and replace it with the following: “(2) Upon receipt of documents in response to an order (not including documents where executive privilege has been claimed pursuant to Standing Order 10.03), the Clerk will — (a) if the House is sitting, present all documents to the Council at the earliest opportunity; or (b) if the House is not sitting, as soon as practicable, provide all documents to each member of the Council and present all documents to the Council on the next sitting day; and all documents presented to the Council or to members of the Council on a non-sitting day are deemed to have been presented to the Council and published by authority of the Legislative Council.”. Omit Standing Orders 10.02(4) and (5) and renumber accordingly.	10.02 Tabling of documents provided in accordance with an order for the production of documents (1) Documents provided in response to an order under Standing Order 10.01 will be delivered to the Clerk. (2) Upon receipt of documents in response to an order (not including documents where executive privilege has been claimed pursuant to Standing Order 10.04), the Clerk will — (a) if the House is sitting, present all documents to the Council at the earliest opportunity; or (b) if the House is not sitting, as soon as practicable, provide all documents to each member of the Council and present all documents to the Council on the next sitting day; and all documents presented to the Council or to members of the Council on a non-sitting day are deemed to have been presented to the Council and published by authority of the Legislative Council (3) A return under this Standing Order is to include an indexed list of all documents identified, showing the date of creation of the document, a description of the document and the author of the document.
10.04 Appointment of an independent legal arbiter An independent legal arbiter required in accordance with Standing Order 10.03(2) is to be appointed by the President and must be a Queen's Counsel, a Senior Counsel or a retired Supreme Court Judge.	In Standing Order 10.04, omit “Queen's Counsel” and replace it with “King's Counsel”.	10.04 Appointment of independent legal arbiter An independent legal arbiter required in accordance with Standing Order 10.03(2) is to be appointed by the President and must be a King's Counsel, a Senior Counsel or a retired Supreme Court Judge.
11.01 Content of petitions (1) A petition must — ... (g) if from a corporation, be made under its common seal.	Omit Standing Order 11.01(1)(g) and replace it with “if from a corporation, be made using a method that complies with the legal requirements for executing a deed.”.	11.01 Content of petitions (1) A petition must — ... (g) if from a corporation, be made using a method that complies with the legal requirements for executing a deed.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
11.03 Presenting a petition (1) Petitions can only be presented to the Council by a member. (2) A member must not present a petition to the Council that they have started or signed. (3) A petition may only be presented during formal business. (4) Every member presenting a petition will become familiar with its contents, and lodge it with the Clerk. (5) A member is not obliged to present a petition and presentation of a petition does not signify agreement with the terms of the petition. (6) The Clerk must certify that every petition when presented is in conformity with the Standing Orders and practices of the Council. (7) A member presenting a petition will read the number of signatures and the action sought and will sign the front sheet. The terms of the petition will be published in Hansard. (8) If requested by the member presenting the petition, the full text of a petition may be read to the Council by the Clerk. (9) No debate is allowed at the time a petition is presented. The only questions which may be moved on the presentation of a petition will be “That the petition do lie on the Table” and, if desired, and if notice is not given pursuant to Standing Order 11.03(10), “That the petition be taken into consideration [on a future day to be named]”, which will be decided without amendment or debate. (10) Where a member has presented a petition that has received – (i) 10,000 signatures or more in the case of an e-petition or combined e-petition and paper petition; or (ii) 2,000 signatures or more in the case of a paper petition; that member may give notice of their intention to move “That the petition be taken into consideration”. (a) The order of the day shall take place on the Wednesday of the next sitting week at the time prescribed by Standing Order 5.02 for ‘Petitions (qualifying for debate)’. (b) Any further notices of intention to take a petition into consideration received before the first order of the day is disposed of shall be set down on succeeding Wednesdays in the order in which they are presented. (c) If a member does not seek the call when the order of the day is read the order of the day will lapse.	Omit Standing Order 11.03(9) and replace it with the following: “(9) No debate is allowed at the time a petition is presented. The only question which may be moved on the presentation of a petition will be “That the petition be tabled” which will be decided without amendment or debate.”. Omit Standing Order 11.09(10) and insert the following in its place: “(10) Where a member has presented a petition that has received at least – (a) 10,000 electronic signatures; or (b) 2,000 paper signatures that member may give notice of a motion “That the House take note of the petition”. (11) Debate on a notice given under Standing Order 11.03(10) shall take place on the Wednesday of the next sitting week at the time prescribed by Standing Order 5.02 for ‘Petitions (qualifying for debate)’. Any further notices given before the first petition is disposed of shall be listed for debate in the order notice is given. (12) If a member does not seek the call to move their notice when it is called on it will lapse and the next notice will be called. (13) Debate on only one petition may occur each Wednesday. (14) At the conclusion of the debate the Chair will put the question “That the House take note of the debate.”.	11.03 Presenting a petition (1) Petitions can only be presented to the Council by a member. (2) A member must not present a petition to the Council that they have started or signed. (3) A petition may only be presented during formal business. (4) Every member presenting a petition will become familiar with its contents, and lodge it with the Clerk. (5) A member is not obliged to present a petition and presentation of a petition does not signify agreement with the terms of the petition. (6) The Clerk must certify that every petition when presented is in conformity with the Standing Orders and practices of the Council. (7) A member presenting a petition will read the number of signatures and the action sought and will sign the front sheet. The terms of the petition will be published in Hansard. (8) If requested by the member presenting the petition, the full text of a petition may be read to the Council by the Clerk. (9) No debate is allowed at the time a petition is presented. The only question which may be moved on the presentation of a petition will be “That the petition be tabled” which will be decided without amendment or debate. (10) Where a member has presented a petition that has received at least – (a) 10,000 electronic signatures; or (b) 2,000 paper signatures that member may give notice of a motion “That the House take note of the petition”. (11) Debate on a notice given under Standing Order 11.03(10) shall take place on the Wednesday of the next sitting week at the time prescribed by Standing Order 5.02 for ‘Petitions (qualifying for debate)’. Any further notices given before the first petition is disposed of shall be listed for debate in the order notice is given. (12) If a member does not seek the call to move their notice when it is called on it will lapse and the next notice will be called. (13) Debate on only one petition may occur each Wednesday. (14) At the conclusion of the debate the Chair will put the question “That the House take note of the debate”.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
11.05 Progressive presentation of e-petition signatures (5) For the duration of the posted period of an e-petition, signatories may be progressively presented as a petition to the House, and — (a) upon progressive presentation of the signatories to the House, the publicly displayed number of persons who have joined that e-petition will re-set to zero; and (b) for the purposes of the records of the House, each progressive presentation of an e-petition will be recorded as a separate petition.	Omit Standing Order 11.05(5).	
Proposed new Standing Order relating to guidelines for petitions	After Standing Order 11.05, insert the following new Standing Order: "11.06 Issuing petition guidelines The Procedure Committee is authorised to issue guidelines relating to petitions."	11.06 Issuing petition guidelines The Procedure Committee is authorised to issue guidelines relating to petitions.
12.08 Member moving adjournment of debate (1) A member, unless they have already made a substantial contribution to the debate, while speaking to a question may move the adjournment of the debate. (2) A member moving the adjournment of the debate on any question will, whether the adjournment is carried or not, be entitled to speak again on the main question, provided they have not discussed that question in moving the motion for adjournment.	In Standing Order 12.08(1), omit "made" and replace it with "completed". In Standing Order 12.08(2), omit "in moving" and replace it with "before moving".	12.08 Member moving adjournment of debate (1) A member, unless they have already completed a substantial contribution to the debate, while speaking to a question may move the adjournment of the debate. (2) A member moving the adjournment of the debate on any question will, whether the adjournment is carried or not, be entitled to speak again on the main question, provided they have not discussed that question before moving the motion for adjournment.
13.02 Order maintained by President Order will be maintained in the House by the President.	Omit Standing Order 13.02 and replace it with the following: "13.02 Order in the House The President will maintain order in the House."	13.02 Order in the House The President will maintain order in the House.
13.05 Procedure after naming (1) If any member is named by the President under Standing Order 13.04 the President will put the question "That such member be suspended from the service of the Council during the remainder of the sitting [or for such period as the Council may think fit]".	In Standing Order 13.05(1) omit "as the Council may think fit" and replace it with "as the President may think fit".	13.05 Procedure after naming (1) If any member is named by the President under Standing Order 13.04 the President will put the question "That such member be suspended from the service of the Council during the remainder of the sitting [or for such period as the President may think fit]".
14.06 and 14.07 Second reading (2) The question "That the bill be now read a second time" will then be proposed.	Omit Standing Order 14.06(2). Omit Standing Order 14.07(2).	

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
14.10 Circulation of amendments (1) During the debate on the question “That the bill be now read a second time” a member may announce amendments to that bill to be proposed during Committee of the whole and ask that they be circulated. Following circulation, members may discuss the principles of the amendments during the second reading.	Omit Standing Order 14.10(1) and insert the following new Standing Order in its place: “(1) During the debate on the question “That the bill be now read a second time” a member may — (a) announce amendments to that bill to be proposed during Committee of the whole and ask that they be circulated; (b) by leave, move a motion, which may not be debated, “That the House authorises amendments to this bill standing in my name to be circulated during Committee of the whole, prior to the conclusion of the consideration of clause 1”; and (c) discuss the principles of any amendments circulated or authorised to be circulated during Committee of the whole under this Standing Order.”.	14.10 Circulation of amendments (1) During the debate on the question “That the bill be now read a second time” a member may — (a) announce amendments to that bill to be proposed during Committee of the whole and ask that they be circulated; (b) by leave, move a motion, which may not be debated, “That the House authorises amendments to this bill standing in my name to be circulated during Committee of the whole, prior to the conclusion of the consideration of clause 1”; and (c) discuss the principles of any amendments circulated or authorised to be circulated during Committee of the whole under this Standing Order.
14.35 Urgent bills (1) At any time following the introduction of a bill, a Minister may without notice declare a bill to be an urgent bill and move “That the bill be treated as an urgent bill”. (2) No amendment will be permitted to the question. (3) When a bill has been declared urgent, the second reading debate and all subsequent stages may proceed immediately or at any time during any sitting without leave. (4) A member may move to adjourn debate or do any other thing normally permitted to be done to a bill, notwithstanding that the bill has been declared urgent.	In Standing Order 14.35(1), omit “declare a bill to be an urgent bill and”. In Standing Order 14.35(3) omit “When a bill has been declared urgent,” and replace it with “For an urgent bill”. In Standing Order 14.35(4) omit “has been declared urgent” and replace it with “is an urgent bill”.	14.35 Urgent bills (1) At any time following the introduction of a bill, a Minister may without notice move “That the bill be treated as an urgent bill”. (2) No amendment will be permitted to the question. (3) For an urgent bill the second reading debate and all subsequent stages may proceed immediately or at any time during any sitting without leave. (4) A member may move to adjourn debate or do any other thing normally permitted to be done to a bill, notwithstanding that the bill is an urgent bill.
14.37 President rules as to private bills After the second reading speech on a bill has been given, the President may rule the bill is a private bill. The Council may order the bill to be dealt with as a public bill.	In Standing Order 14.37, after “been given” insert “or incorporated in Hansard”.	14.37 President rules as to private bills After the second reading speech on a bill has been given or incorporated in Hansard, the President may rule the bill is a private bill. The Council may order the bill to be dealt with as a public bill.
14.39 Objection to private bill (2) The Clerk must notify the Council of any written objections during formal business at the next sitting and any such objections will be ordered to lie upon the Table.	In Standing Order 14.39(2), omit “ordered to lie on the Table” and replace it with “tabled”.	14.39 Objection to private bill (2) The Clerk must notify the Council of any written objections during formal business at the next sitting and any such objections will be tabled.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
15.06 Rules of debate in Committee of the whole (1) Debate on clause 1 of a bill will be limited to the purposes of the bill.	In Standing Order 15.06(1) omit “will be limited to the purposes of the bill” and replace it with “must be relevant to the subject matter of the bill.”.	15.06 Rules of debate in Committee of the whole (1) Debate on clause 1 of a bill must be relevant to the subject matter of the bill.
Proposed new Standing Order relating to redactions The Procedure Committee has considered requests from time to time to make redactions in Hansard. This Standing Order provides an authority and process for these requests to be considered and acted upon.	After Standing Order 19.05, insert the following new Standing Order: “19.06 Redactions The Procedure Committee may authorise redactions from a tabled document (including a petition), Council Hansard, a transcript from a former Council Committee, or official broadcast footage of the Council Chamber or a Council Committee, on safety or security grounds in accordance with the following process: (1) A person, including a member of Parliament, may write to the Clerk and request the redaction including details of the nature of the safety or security risk and how redaction would reduce or remove this risk. The Clerk will then forward that request to the Committee as soon as practicable. (2) In considering a request for redaction the Committee may confer with the member, person or organisation who made the contribution or tabled the document. (3) If the Committee is satisfied there is a safety or security risk and the redaction is warranted, the Committee may approve the request. All members present at the meeting must unanimously agree for the Committee’s decision to be effective. (4) The Clerk will inform the person who made the request of the Committee’s decision. Where the Committee unanimously approves the redaction, the Clerk must take all necessary steps to give effect to the Committee’s decision. (5) A redaction does not affect the protections provided by sections 73, 74 or 74AA of the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. (6) The Clerk must include a statement of the number of redactions made and the type of document they were redacted from, excluding any identifying information, in the annual report of the Department of the Legislative Council. (7) The Committee may issue guidelines on the operation of this Standing Order.”.	19.06 Redactions The Procedure Committee may authorise redactions from a tabled document (including a petition), Council Hansard, a transcript from a former Council Committee, or official broadcast footage of the Council Chamber or a Council Committee, on safety or security grounds in accordance with the following process: (1) A person, including a member of Parliament, may write to the Clerk and request the redaction including details of the nature of the safety or security risk and how redaction would reduce or remove this risk. The Clerk will then forward that request to the Committee as soon as practicable. (2) In considering a request for redaction the Committee may confer with the member, person or organisation who made the contribution or tabled the document. (3) If the Committee is satisfied there is a safety or security risk and the redaction is warranted, the Committee may approve the request. All members present at the meeting must unanimously agree for the Committee’s decision to be effective. (4) The Clerk will inform the person who made the request of the Committee’s decision. Where the Committee unanimously approves the redaction, the Clerk must take all necessary steps to give effect to the Committee’s decision. (5) A redaction does not affect the protections provided by sections 73, 74 or 74AA of the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. (6) The Clerk must include a statement of the number of redactions made and the type of document they were redacted from, excluding any identifying information, in the annual report of the Department of the Legislative Council. (7) The Committee may issue guidelines on the operation of this Standing Order.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
21.04 President may confer with person seeking right of reply; must notify and consult with member (b) must give notice of the submission in writing to the member who referred in the Council to that person and then consult with the member prior to any response being presented to the Council; and	Omit the heading for Standing Order 21.04 and replace it with “Considerations by President”. In Standing Order 21.04(b), after “that person” insert “or organisation”.	21.04 Considerations by President In considering a submission the President — (a) may confer with the person or organisation who made the submission; (b) must give notice of the submission in writing to the member who referred in the Council to that person or organisation and then consult with the member prior to any response being presented to the Council; and (c) will not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the Council or the submission.
23.02 Appointment of committees (3) At the commencement of each Parliament a Privileges Committee will be appointed to consider any matter relating to the privileges of the House referred to it by the Council.	In Standing Order 23.02(3), omit “referred to it by the Council.” and replace it with “referred to it — (a) by the Council; or (b) by the President, or (c) under legislation.”.	23.02 Appointment of committees (3) At the commencement of each Parliament a Privileges Committee will be appointed to consider any matter relating to the privileges of the House referred to it — (a) by the Council; or (b) by the President, or (c) under legislation.
23.03 Functions of standing committees (4) References concerning departments and agencies shall be allocated to the committees in accordance with a resolution of the Council allocating departments and agencies to the committees.	Omit Standing Order 23.03(4).	
23.04 Referrals to standing committees (3) A standing committee may resolve to inquire into, consider and report to the House on any matter, including bills or draft bills, annual reports, estimates of expenditure or other documents laid before the Legislative Council in accordance with an Act or Standing Order, provided these are relevant to their functions.	In Standing Order 23.04(3), after “on any matter” insert “relevant to its functions”. In Standing Order 23.04(3), omit “laid before the” and replace it with “tabled in the”. In Standing Order 23.04(3), after “Act or Standing Order” omit “, provided these are relevant to their functions”.	23.04 Referrals to standing committees (3) A standing committee may resolve to inquire into, consider and report to the House on any matter relevant to its functions, including bills or draft bills, annual reports, estimates of expenditure or other documents tabled in the Legislative Council in accordance with an Act or Standing Order.
23.05 Membership (3) Members and participating members will be appointed to committees by resolution of the Council.	In Standing Order 23.05(3) omit “and participating members”.	23.05 Membership (3) Members will be appointed to committees by resolution of the Council.
23.07 Participating members of standing committees (1) Participating members may participate in hearings and meetings, and have all the rights of members of committees, but may not vote on any questions before the committees.	Omit the heading to Standing Order 23.07 and replace it with: “Participating members of standing and select committees” Insert new Standing Order 23.07(1) and renumber remaining 23.07 accordingly: “(1) The Council may appoint participating members to standing and select committees.”	23.07 Participating members of standing and select committees (1) The Council may appoint participating members to standing and select committees. (2) Participating members may participate in hearings and meetings, and have all the rights of members of committees, but may not vote on any questions before the committees. (3) A participating member must not be counted for the purpose of forming a quorum.

Current Standing Orders	Proposed amendment	Proposed new Standing Order
23.08 Substitute members of standing committees (1) Participating members may be further appointed as substitutes for other members on the standing committees in respect of nominated meetings, a defined period of time or inquiry of the committee.	Omit the heading to Standing Order 23.08 and replace it with: “Substitute members of standing and select committees” Omit Standing Order 23.08(1) and replace it with the following: “(1) Participating members may be further appointed as substitutes for other members on standing and select committees.”	23.08 Substitute members of standing and select committees (1) Participating members may be further appointed as substitutes for other members on standing and select committees.
23.12 Meetings (3) A committee may adjourn until a time and place of its choosing.	Omit Standing Order 23.12(3) and replace it with “A committee must resolve a time and place for its next meeting.”.	23.12 Meetings (3) A committee must resolve a time and place for its next meeting.

**Adopted by the Legislative Council Procedure Committee
Parliament of Victoria, East Melbourne
13 August 2026**

Minority report

Minority Report of Liberal Members of the Procedure Committee of the Legislative Council

This Minority Report is an addendum laying out the position of the Liberal members of the Procedure Committee with respect to changes to the Standing Orders at the end of the 60th Parliament.

The Majority Report has been adopted by all members of the Procedure Committee and is supported by the three of us. However, the Liberals and the Nationals are concerned that the Treaty legislated recently by the Victorian Parliament should not be reflected in these Standing Orders. We note that the Standing Orders were changed recently on 2 April 2026 on the motion of the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Jaclyn Symes, that, commencing 30 April 2026, Bills tabled in the Legislative Council have a Statement of Treaty Compatibility.

The Liberals and the Nationals have committed to removing Jacinta Allan's divisive Treaty and will within 100 days repeal the Treaty saving Victorians an extraordinary cost of \$1 billion that cannot be justified. Consequently, it is our view that those divisive changes made to the Standing Orders should be revoked.

The Treaty, over a number of years, will cost Victorians more than \$1 billion. It will slow and restrict legislative and administrative activities in the state of Victoria, making Victoria less competitive, doing so through the imposition of a divisive framework.

We have attached a draft amendment which will be moved when the Standing Orders are considered in the coming weeks. We have informed members of the Procedure Committee it is our intention to move this amendment.

The Hon. David Davis MP

A blue ink signature of David Davis, featuring a stylized 'D' and 'D'.

The Hon. Wendy Lovell MP

A blue ink signature of Wendy Lovell, written in a cursive style.

Evan Mulholland MP

A blue ink signature of Evan Mulholland, written in a cursive style.

Draft change to Standing Orders

That the following changes to Standing Orders take effect from 1 December 2026 —

- (1) **omit** all the words and expressions in Standing Orders 14.06(1)(c) and 14.07(d) and **replace** them with “will table the statement of compatibility with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, if required, and the statement will be incorporated in Hansard;”.

