



# Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

## Parliament of Queensland

### Media Statement

Tuesday, 31 July 2012

#### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY

In Westminster Parliaments admission to the public gallery has traditionally been viewed as a privilege extended by the House.

The Queensland Parliament has followed the Westminster presumption that persons visiting the House do so to listen to debates, and that it should be considered a discourtesy to the House for person in the public gallery not to give their full attention to the proceedings.

Accordingly, gallery visitors have been traditionally required to be silent and to refrain from attempting to address the House, interjecting, applauding, conversing, reading, eating, and so on.

These requirements are clearly set out in the signage detailing the conditions of entry to the public gallery.

Despite these clear conditions of entry, over the years certain individuals or groups have in recent times sought to disrupt proceedings.

It is always a delicate balance to strike between, on the one hand, maintaining the privilege for the vast majority of bone fide members of the public who wish to attend and observe democracy in action and, on the other hand, protecting the House from those few individuals or groups who might seek to disrupt its proceedings.

However, in light recent events and the fact that Parliament's proceedings are now broadcast live over the internet, I have today signed a direction to all authorised officers under Section 50 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988.

This direction signals my intention to exercise my discretion to refuse access to the public gallery of the Legislative Assembly to all persons other than those accompanied by Parliamentary Security pass holders in circumstances when authorised officers are in the possession of credible intelligence of:

- protest activity is intended or occurring in or immediately outside the Parliamentary Precinct; and/or
- that certain individuals or groups are intending to disrupt the proceedings of the Assembly.

To watch a video replay of this Speaker's Statement ► [click here](#)

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