



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF QUEENSLAND

SESSIONAL ORDERS  
53<sup>RD</sup> PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)

EFFECTIVE FROM 22 APRIL 2009  
AMENDED 28 OCTOBER 2009

QUEENSLAND

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Legislative Assembly

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SESSIONAL ORDERS  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
53<sup>rd</sup> PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)

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BRISBANE

By Authority: N J Laurie, The Clerk of the Parliament

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Adopted 22 April 2009  
Amended 28 October 2009

**SESSIONAL ORDERS – 53<sup>RD</sup> PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)**  
**EFFECTIVE FROM 22 APRIL 2009**  
**AMENDED 28 OCTOBER 2009**

**Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business**

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30am until by its own resolution the House adjourns.

(b) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

*9.30am – 10.30am (each day) —*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Debating of Committee Reports (on each Thursday only)

Notices of Motion (including motions for debate from 5.30pm to 6.30pm on Wednesday)

*10.30am – 11.30am (each day) —*

Question Time

*11.30am – 12.30pm (Tuesday)—*

Matters of Public Interest

*12.30pm – 1.00pm (Tuesday)—*

Government Business

*11.30am – 12.00pm (Wednesday)—*

Private Members' Statements (Leader of the Opposition or nominee having first call)

*12.00pm – 1.00pm (Wednesday)—*

*Government Business*

*11.30am – 1.00pm (Thursday)—*

*Government Business*

*1.00pm – 2.30pm (each day) —*

Lunch break

*2.30pm – 6.30pm (Tuesday)—*

Government Business

*2.30pm – 5.30pm (Wednesday)—*

Government Business

*5.30pm – 6.30pm (Wednesday)—*

Private Members' Motion

*2.30pm until adjournment moved (Thursday)—*

Government Business

*6.30pm - 7.30pm (Tuesday and Wednesday)—*  
Dinner break

*7.30pm - 10.00pm (Tuesday)—*  
Government Business

*7.30pm – 10.00pm (Wednesday)—*  
Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(c))

- (c) On a Wednesday after debate of Private Members' Motion –
- (i) if there are no Disallowance Motions or Private Members Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 3), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise the House will break for dinner between 6.30pm and 7.30pm and then commence with Government Business until 10.00pm when the adjournment will be moved;
  - (ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 3), the House will break for dinner between 6.30pm and 7.30pm and then commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until 10.00pm when the adjournment will be moved.
- (d) The motion "That the House do now adjourn" may only be moved by the Member occupying the position of Leader or Acting Leader of the House in the House.
- (e) As soon as the motion in (d) is moved, there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.
- (f) The motion "That the House do now adjourn" may be moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House at any time despite the order of business.
- (g) If the House sits on any day other than a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, then unless otherwise ordered, the order of business shall be as follows:

*From 9.30am to 10.30 am —*  
Prayers  
Messages from the Governor  
Matters concerning privilege  
Speaker's Statements  
Petitions  
Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
Ministerial Papers  
Ministerial Notices of Motion  
Ministerial Statements  
Any other Government Business  
Personal Explanations  
Tabling of Reports  
Notices of Motion  
Question Time (for remaining time until 10.30 am)

*10.30am- 1.00pm—*  
Government Business

*1.00pm – 2.30pm —*  
Lunch break

*2.30pm – until Adjournment moved—*  
Government Business

## **Debate of Parliamentary committee reports**

2. (1) On tabling a committee report or, where a committee report is tabled when the House is not sitting, on the next sitting day, the member tabling the report may give notice of motion that the House take note of the report.
- (2) Debate of motions that the House take note of committee reports may be moved and debated without amendment on each Thursday following Tabling of Reports in the order in which the notice of motion was given.
- (3) A debate of a motion in (2) not completed may be adjourned to the following Thursday.
- (4) A motion in (2) cannot be amended.

## **Private Members' Bills**

3. (1) A member who is not a Minister may introduce a Bill during time set aside in the Order of Business for Private Members' Statements. In such a case the Member introducing the Bill may either:
  - (a) speak on the Bill for the time allotted each member (two minutes) and then incorporate the remainder of their second reading speech, so long as the speech has been shown to the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 25(2); or
  - (b) speak for a maximum of 15 minutes, in which case any time spoken in excess of the time normally allotted (two minutes) shall:
    - in the case of a non-Government Member, be deducted from the time normally allocated to non-Government Members in the total time allocated for Private Members' Statements; or
    - in the case of a Government Member, be deducted from the time normally allocated to Government Members in the total time allocated for Private Members' Statements;
  - (c) speak for any time remaining for:
    - in the case of a non-Government Member, the time normally allocated to non-Government Members in the total time allocated for Private Members' Statements; or
    - in the case of a Government Member, the time normally allocated to Government Members in the total time allocated for Private Members' Statements.
- (2) If a Bill introduced by a member who is not a Minister has laid upon the Table of the House for a period exceeding ninety days and has not passed all stages, that Bill will be brought on for debate on the following sitting Wednesday evening.
- (3) The House will continue to debate the Bill on each following sitting Wednesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

## **Condolence Motions**

4. (1) A motion of condolence may be moved as the first item of business after Speaker's Statements in the Order of Business.
- (2) If a motion of condolence is moved in accordance with (1), the debate on such motion will last no more than one hour, after which time the question shall be put.
- (3) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved in accordance with (1) and (2), the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing one hour after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

## Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

5. The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
Election of Speaker – each member	SO 39	5 minutes
Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate – Motions and Second Reading Debates – Question Time		10 minutes 2 minutes
Private Members’ Statements – each member	Sessional Order 1	2 minutes
Debating of Committee Reports – each member	Sessional Order 1	3 minutes
Tabling of Reports – member tabling report	Sessional Order 1	2 minutes
Tabling of Reports – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes
Personal Explanations – each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
Matters concerning privilege	Sessional Order 1 & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
Questions Without Notice – Question time (total time)	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour Time remaining until 10.30 am
– Member asking question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	At discretion of Speaker
– Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	3 minutes
Matters of Public Interest – Total time – Leader of Opposition or nominee – Other members	Sessional Order 1 Sessional Order 1 Sessional Order 1	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
Adjournment debate – Total time	SO 56 & Sessional Order 1	30 minutes
– Each member	SO 56 & Sessional Order 1	3 minutes
Private Members’ Motions (Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30 pm) – Total time – Mover – Other member	Sessional Order 1 Sessional Order 1 Sessional Order 1	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
Dissent to ruling of Speaker – Total time – Each member	SO 250 SO 250	1 hour 10 minutes
Disallowance of statutory instruments – Total time – Mover	SO 59 SO 59	2 hours 15 minutes

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders</b>	<b>Time</b>
– Other member	SO 59	10 minutes
– Minister in reply	SO 59	20 minutes
<b>Motions</b>		
– Mover	Chapter 15	20 minutes
– Other members	Chapter 15	20 minutes
– Mover in reply	Chapter 15	30 minutes
<b>Bills (Private Members)</b>		
<b>Second reading debate</b>		
– Mover	Sessional Order 1 & 3	1 hour
– Other Members	Sessional Order 1 & 3	10 minutes
– Mover in reply	Sessional Order 1 & 3	30 minutes
<b>Consideration in Detail</b>		
– Mover	Sessional Order 1 & 3	no limit
– Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)	Sessional Order 1 & 3	1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes
– Other Members (on each question)	Sessional Order 1 & 3	1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Bills (Government)</b>		
<b>Second reading debate</b>		
– Mover (Minister)	SO 128(5)	1 hour
– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)	SO 131	1 hour
– Other Members	SO 131	20 minutes
– Mover in reply	SO 131	30 minutes
<b>Consideration in Detail</b>		
– Mover (Minister)	SO 139	no limit
– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each question)	SO 139	1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes
– Other Members (on each question)		1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Address in Reply Debate</b>		
– Total time	SO 47	28 hours
– Mover	SO 47	20 minutes
– Other members	SO 47	20 minutes
– Mover in reply	SO 47	30 minutes

### **Dress standards**

6. Dress standards in the parliamentary chamber should be appropriate to the Queensland climate and reflect general community standards. All members and staff are expected to dress in business attire. Male members and staff may wear a long-sleeve business shirt and tie or coat and long-sleeve business shirt without tie.