Guidelines for recording and broadcasting the public proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees

1. Pursuant to section 5 (2) of the Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting) Act 2001 (the Act), the Legislative Assembly has agreed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly making guidelines for the recording and broadcasting of Assembly and committee proceedings (see continuing resolution 3 as amended on 11 February 2010).

2. These guidelines apply to the recording and broadcasting of Legislative Assembly and committee proceedings to the public by radio, television, landline, the internet or any other electronic means, including still photography.

Permission to broadcast or record for broadcast

3. Recording for broadcast or broadcasting of proceedings is permitted only subject to the guidelines for camera operators and conditions of use outlined below. Permission to record for broadcast proceedings will be granted on receipt of a signed undertaking to abide by these guidelines and conditions.

4. Persons or organisations intending to record for broadcast the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly chamber or the proceedings of an Assembly committee must, in the first instance, obtain the approval of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in writing using the approved form (AF2010-13) which includes an undertaking to abide by these guidelines [see attachment C]. Any person intending to record for broadcast the Assembly or committee proceedings must notify the appropriate Secretariat staff and provide identification before entering the chamber or a committee room.

5. Persons or organisations that have obtained permission from the Speaker to record for broadcast committee proceedings will be able to do so, unless a member of the committee or a witness objects. The committee secretary, or another person acting on the committee’s behalf, will advise all witnesses in advance of their appearing at a public hearing of a committee that the proceedings may be recorded for broadcast. A witness will be given reasonable opportunity to object and to state the ground of the objection. The committee will consider any such objection, having regard to the proper protection of the witness and the public interest in the proceedings, and if the committee decides to permit broadcasting of the proceedings notwithstanding the witness’s objection, the witness shall be so informed before appearing in the proceedings.

6. Permission granted by the Speaker to a person or organisation in accordance with paragraph 4 of these guidelines will remain in force until 31 December each year, after which time a fresh application for permission must be lodged with the Speaker.

Recording proceedings for broadcast

Guidelines for camera operators

7. A person or organisation that has been granted permission to record proceedings for broadcast will observe the following guidelines for camera operators:

(a) as a general principle, the on-air camera should be directed towards the member who has the call and camera shots should
be medium range head and shoulders;

(b) panning shots are permitted for the purpose of showing members listening to the debate;

(c) reaction shots of members are permitted when a member has sought information which is being supplied by the member who has the call, or when the member is referred to in debate;

(d) a wide angle shot of the chamber is permitted, subject to subparagraph (f);

(e) during a division cameras must broadcast a wide view of the chamber; at other times when no member has the call cameras must focus on the Speaker;

(f) cameras must not focus on a person seated in any of the galleries;

(g) protests, demonstrations or other disturbances must not be recorded;

(h) close up shots of members’ or witnesses’ papers are not permitted;

(i) broadcasting and still photography should not interfere with the proceedings of the Assembly or its committees;

(j) the use of flash or other sources of additional light is not permitted; and

(k) any direction of the Speaker or a committee chair in relation to the filming, photographing, recording or broadcasting of proceedings in the chamber must be observed.

Broadcasting or rebroadcasting proceedings

8. Persons or organisations that wish to broadcast or rebroadcast audio or visual material, including material available on the Assembly’s website, must abide by the conditions of use set out below.

9. Broadcast material must not be used for:

   (a) the purpose of satire or ridicule;

   (b) advertising for or by political parties;

   (c) electioneering; or

   (d) commercial advertising or sponsorship.

10. The Legislative Assembly’s broadcasts are live and continuous and while in that complete and unaltered state are protected by parliamentary privilege. Extracts or excerpts of the broadcast may be protected if they constitute fair and accurate reports of proceedings.

Withdrawal of right to broadcast

11. Pursuant to section 6 of the Act the Legislative Assembly has delegated to the Speaker and committees formed by resolution or standing order of the Assembly the power to withdraw the right to broadcast. If a person or organisation breaches the guidelines for camera operators or conditions of use, the Speaker or a committee chair may deny access to proceedings of the Assembly or the relevant committee for a period of time following the breach.
12. Further breaches may result in the withdrawal of permission for the remainder of the year.

Shane Rattenbury,
Speaker
11 February 2010