



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE
Speaker (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA,
Mr Andrew Wall MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of Standing Orders

Submission Number: 6

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Dear Ms Burch

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the review of Standing Orders that is currently being conducted by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

We have only a couple of relatively minor comments to put forward, which I set out below.

Standing Order 178A and 182 (b)

These standing orders both deal with the circulation of proposed amendments to bills. It is not clear why the circulation requirement is stated in the 2 separate standing orders.

Also, the heading to standing order 178A is 'Amendments to be circulated and debate adjourned'. However the standing order itself does not mention anything about the debate being adjourned.

Standing Order 182A

This standing order requires an amendment proposed by the Government to its own bill to be considered and reported on by the Scrutiny Committee before it can be moved. The requirement can be dispensed with if the amendment is urgent, minor or technical, or in response to Scrutiny Committee comments.

As a matter of principle, it might be questioned why the standing order does not apply to amendments generally rather than being limited to government amendments of government bills. It is suggested that consideration be given to extending the standing order to amendments from any member and in relation to any bill so that they all might have the benefit of Scrutiny Committee review.

Also, the standing order does not give a timeframe for proposed amendments to be given to the Scrutiny Committee. We understand there is a practice that 14 days notice is given. It might be helpful to have that spelt out in the standing order. An option for a shorter period, if the committee agrees, would probably also be helpful.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Regards

Mary

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