

# HOUSE REVIEW



## Selected features of House of Representatives business

\*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this edition contains names of deceased persons.

Sitting period 9 – 11 May 2023 (no. 58)

The first Winter sittings of 2023 commenced with an Address of Congratulation to His Majesty King Charles III, and were marked by the presentation of the Budget and the Budget reply speech, the first speech by a new Member, and the presentation of the Address in Reply.

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### **Address of Congratulation to His Majesty the King**

When the House resumed on 9 May the first item of business was the moving, by the Prime Minister, of an Address of Congratulation to be presented to His Majesty King Charles III on the occasion of the King's coronation. The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and supported by all Members present rising in their places.

### **Presentation of the Address in Reply**

Also on 9 May, the item of business relating to the Address in Reply to the Governor-General's opening of parliament speech was returned to the House from the Federation Chamber. The question 'That the Address be agreed to' was put and passed, with 103 Members having participated in the debate. The Speaker informed the House that he had ascertained that the Governor-General would be pleased to receive the Address in Reply at Government House on Thursday morning, and would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other Members, would accompany him for the presentation. Standing orders were suspended to facilitate the House not sitting until 12 noon on Thursday, to enable the Speaker and Members to attend the presentation. After taking the Chair on Thursday, the Speaker reported to the House that he had waited upon the Governor-General and presented the Address in Reply on the House's behalf.



The Speaker presents the Address in Reply to the Governor-General.  
Photo courtesy AUSPIC/DPS.



The Mace, which accompanies the Speaker on certain formal occasions such as the presentation of the Address in Reply, remains covered with a cloth before entering the Governor-General's presence. Being the symbol of the Royal authority, the Mace is unnecessary in the presence of the authority itself.  
Photo courtesy DPS/AUSPIC.

### **Swearing-in and first speech by new Member for Aston**

Just before Question Time on Tuesday, the Speaker announced that he had received a return to the writ for the election of a Member to fill the vacancy in the seat of Aston. By the endorsement on the writ, it was certified that Mary Doyle had been elected. The new Member for Aston made and subscribed the affirmation of allegiance and wasted no time commencing her representative duties in the chamber, asking the first Government question during Question Time. On 11 May, standing and sessional orders were suspended to enable the Member to make her first speech.



The new Member for Aston is admitted to the Chamber, led by the Serjeant-at-Arms and accompanied by supporters, the Members for

### **Ministerial statement**

On 10 May, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the regional ministerial budget statement. The Leader of The Nationals addressed the House in reply.

### **Legislation**

#### *Budget 2023-2024*

On Tuesday evening the Treasurer presented Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2023-2024—often referred to as the main appropriation bill—and, after the first reading by the Clerk, moved the second reading and made the Budget speech. The House had earlier agreed to suspend standing orders relating to the automatic adjournment of the House and limits on business after the normal time of adjournment to allow this to occur. The Assistant Treasurer then presented documents in connection with the Budget and presented Appropriation Bill (No. 2), Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) and three additional estimates bills which propose additional annual appropriations for 2022-23 for expenditure in relation to Government decisions since the October 2022-23 Budget.

Before each of these bills was presented, the Speaker announced a message from the Administrator recommending appropriation for the purposes of the bill. These announcements, made in accordance with standing order 180, fulfilled the constitutional requirement that no proposed law for the appropriation of revenue or moneys shall be passed unless the purpose of the appropriation has been recommended by message of the Governor-General (or an Administrator of the Commonwealth) in the same session.

On Thursday evening, the Leader of the Opposition spoke in reply on resumption of debate on the second reading of Appropriation Bill (No. 1). Under the standing orders, there is no time limit for the speeches by the Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition on the main appropriation bill. All other Members will have 15 minutes each when debate is resumed.

#### *Introductions*

In addition to the Budget legislation, two further government bills were introduced during the week, both on Wednesday. As the House did not sit on Monday, there was no private Members' business and thus no opportunity for the introduction of, or debate on, private Members' bills. Three private Members' bills have been scheduled by the Selection Committee for presentation when the House next sits on 22 May.

#### *Passing the House*

Six bills were passed by the House during Budget week. This included the Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023, the main purpose of which is to provide for permanent governance arrangements and functions for Jobs and Skills Australia (a statutory body which was initially established with interim governance arrangements and functions). During consideration in detail, two government amendments were agreed to on division, while four opposition and two crossbench amendments were defeated on division, before the bill, as amended, was agreed to and read a third time.

### **Marking the deaths of former Members and significant Australians**

On 9 May, motions of condolence were moved by the Prime Minister in relation to the deaths of the Hon John Charles Kerin AO and the Hon Stewart West. The Leader of the Opposition supported the motions, prior to their referral to the Federation Chamber, where they were further debated on 11 May.

On 10 May the Prime Minister moved a motion of condolence in relation to the death of Yunupingu AM, placing on record the House's 'appreciation for his significant leadership, his contribution to the cause of Aboriginal land rights in Australia, (and) commitment to self-determination for First Nations people.' The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and spoke in reply, while the Minister for Indigenous Australians also addressed the House in support of the motion. The motion was referred to the Federation Chamber for further debate, and further contributions were made in that chamber on 11 May.

During the period for statements on significant matters following the acknowledgement of country and prayers on 10 May, statements were made in relation to the deaths of Allan Gyngell AO, John Olsen AO OBE, Barry Humphries AO CBE and Robert Maguire AM. A motion to permit further statements to be made in the Federation Chamber was agreed to and further statements were made there on 11 May.

### **Committee activity**

Eight committee reports were presented by House and Joint committees during the week, some of which had earlier been presented to the Speaker out of session. On 9 May, the Member for Macarthur and Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport presented the committee's report entitled *Sick and Tired: Casting a long shadow – Inquiry into Long COVID and repeated COVID infections* which had been presented out of session. The Chair and the Deputy Chair (Member for Lindsay) each made statements in connection with the report. A motion to take note of the report was referred to the Federation Chamber to enable further debate to take place there.

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### **Further information on the work of the House**

[Bills and legislation](#)—access bills, explanatory memoranda, amendments, speeches, information about key stages of a bill's consideration, and a tracking option

[Live Minutes](#)—a real time summary of House decisions and proceedings. When used in conjunction with the [Daily Program](#), the Live Minutes are a simple way to track the House's work each day

[House of Representatives Practice](#) 7 ed., 2018—the most authoritative guide to House procedure

[House of Representatives Standing and Sessional Orders](#), as at 2 August 2022—the House's rules of procedure

[Procedural Digest](#)—a record of selected procedural events in the House of Representatives Chamber and the Federation Chamber. It includes Speaker's rulings, precedents and unusual situations.