



Appendix A – Proposed announcement to the House

For the benefit of honourable Members, I remind the House of new sessional orders applying to the proceedings on the main appropriation bill which were adopted by the House on [date]. These sessional orders were recommended to the House by the Procedure Committee following its inquiry into the consideration in detail of the main appropriation bill, which was prompted by concerns raised in the House by the Member for Grayndler on 18 June last year.

Sessional orders 182A and 182B effectively clarify the pre-existing practice and procedure relating to the main appropriation bill and reproduce some existing provisions in the standing orders in Chapter 13, which deals specifically with financial proposals. The House has also adopted new time limits by sessional order, which apply only to the consideration in detail stage on the main appropriation bill. Each Member, including ministers, may speak for an unlimited number of periods of two minutes duration.

In respect of the consideration in detail stage, sessional order 182B makes it clear that both questions to ministers and general debate are in order. Questions and debate must be relevant to the expenditure being considered, and may refer to departmental activity and government policy relating to the expenditure, and related expenditure in other appropriation bills.

I also take this opportunity to remind the House that the Procedure Committee made some other suggestions about the conduct of this debate which, if observed by Members, ministers and the occupants of the Chair, will help to ensure a more focussed interactive debate. The Procedure Committee suggested the following be observed:

- subject to the usual discretion of the Chair, the allocation of the call ought to be consistent with the practice applying to other debates and alternate between government and non-government Members;
- Members focus their contributions on short points of debate or questions with minimal preamble;
- Ministers indicate at the commencement of the debate on their portfolio how they intend, or would prefer, to conduct their part in the debate, providing some guidance to other Members on when and how they can expect the minister to respond to the issues they have raised; and
- it would assist occupants of the Chair if, when government backbench Members are participating in the debate, the minister occasionally made way and did not seek the call when it returned to the government side.