



THE HON IAN CAUSLEY MP

FEDERAL NATIONAL PARTY MEMBER FOR PAGE
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Submission No. 2

30 October 2006

Mrs Margaret May, MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Procedure
P O Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs May

Thank you for your letter of 20 October regarding the Committee's review of a motion that combined both a suspension of standing and sessional orders and the condemnation of a member on 10 October 2006.

I would like to comment on this matter.

There seems to have been a tradition in the Australian Parliament to allow this to occur.

I believe this issue falls in the same category as a member attempting to condemn another member where the Chair will rule that there must be a substantive motion. This to protect members and allow them a right of reply. I therefore believe that the matter in question should be dealt with in the same manner.

The first issue should be to prove the need to suspend standing orders. The reasons can be stated but not debated. If the Parliament agrees to suspend standing orders then the substantive debate can proceed with a time limit of one hour or whatever is deemed reasonable. There is a standing order in New South Wales on urgency that is dealt with in this way.

Of course the Government will always have the numbers. It is important to remember, however, the Government doesn't 'own' the Parliament. The Chamber is the members' chamber and all members must be dealt with equally as far as possible.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Ian Causley, MP
Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Federal Member for Page