



## **Australian Government**

Australian Government response to the  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure  
Final report:

Maintenance of the standing orders

November 2019

**Response from the Government to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure final report: *Maintenance of the standing orders***

**Recommendation No.1**

*The Committee recommends that standing order 13(c) be amended to read:*

*13(c) If a government Member is elected as Deputy Speaker, only a non-government Member may be elected as Second Deputy Speaker. If a non-government Member is elected as Deputy Speaker, only a government Member may be elected as Second Deputy Speaker.*

Response

The Government supports the recommendation. The Standing Orders were amended on 4 July 2019 to implement the recommendation.

**Recommendation No.2**

*The Committee recommends that standing order 80 be amended to read:*

*80 If a Member is speaking, other than when ~~giving a notice of motion or~~ moving the terms of a motion, another Member may move —*

*That the Member be no longer heard.*

*The question must be put immediately and resolved without amendment or debate.*

Response

The Government does not support the recommendation, considering the arrangements for the closure of debate are working well.

**Recommendation No.3**

*The Committee recommends that standing order 131(a) be amended to read:*

*(a) ~~If a division is called following a division and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker shall~~ may appoint tellers immediately and order the bells to be rung for one minute.*

Response

The Government supports this recommendation. The Standing Orders were amended on 4 July 2019 to implement the recommendation.

**Recommendation No.4**

*The Committee recommends that standing order 190(c) be amended to read:*

*(c) If, at the time of the adjournment of the House, the Federation Chamber has not been adjourned, the Federation Chamber stands automatically adjourned, with the Deputy Speaker interrupting business before the Federation Chamber if it is meeting.*

Response

The Government supports this recommendation. The Standing Orders were amended on 4 July 2019 to implement the recommendation.