

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

*1971—Parliamentary Paper No. 58*

# *House of Representatives*

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT

### TOGETHER WITH RECOMMENDATION

19 AUGUST 1971

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*Brought up and ordered to be printed*

*20 August 1971*

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CANBERRA: 1971

## MEMBERS OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

### *Ex Officio:*

The Speaker (Sir William Aston)—*Chairman*  
The Chairman of Committees (Mr Lucock)  
The Leader of the House (Mr Swartz)  
The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr Barnard)

### *Appointed:*

The Prime Minister (Mr McMahon)  
Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Industry)  
Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition)  
Mr Bryant  
Mr Drury  
Mr Duthie  
Mr Scholes

# Report

1. Your Committee has considered again the matter of days and hours of meeting as contained in standing order 40.

2. In its Report of 10 June 1970 your Committee recommended that sitting days and hours be changed and that the sittings be based on a four-day week, two weeks of sitting and one week off. This matter was considered in the House on 3 September 1970 when the Committee's recommendation was debated and agreed to, after amendment.

3. The new standing order 40 came into operation on 13 October 1970.

4. Your Committee was informed that experience had shown that the present sitting pattern had not proved as efficient or convenient as anticipated and that the large majority of Members favoured a return to the pattern of sittings previously in use.

5. Your Committee agrees that, in the light of the experience, a change should be made and therefore recommends that standing order 40 be omitted and the following standing order be inserted in place thereof:

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Days and hours<br>of meeting | 40. Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet for the despatch of<br>business on each Tuesday and Wednesday at half-past two o'clock p.m.;<br>and on each Thursday at half-past ten o'clock a.m. |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

W. J. ASTON  
*Chairman*

House of Representatives  
19 August 1971