

Tuesday, 3 February 2009

JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council vacancy

Honourable members of both houses met in Assembly chamber at 6.19 p.m.

The Clerk — Before proceeding with the business of this joint sitting it will be necessary to appoint a Chair. I call the Premier.

Mr BRUMBY (Premier) — I move:

That the Honourable Robert Smith, President of the Legislative Council, be appointed Chair of this joint sitting.

He is willing to accept the nomination.

The Clerk — Are there any other proposals?

There being no other proposal, the Honourable Robert Smith, President of the Legislative Council, will take the chair.

The PRESIDENT — I draw the attention of honourable members to the extracts from the Constitution Act 1975 which have been circulated. It will be noted that the various provisions require that the joint sitting be conducted in accordance with rules adopted for the purpose by members present at the sitting. The first procedure, therefore, will be the adoption of the rules.

Mr BRUMBY (Premier) — I desire to submit the rules of procedure which are in the hands of honourable members, and I accordingly move:

That these rules be the rules of procedure for this joint sitting.

Mr BAILLIEU (Leader of the Opposition) — I second the motion.

Motion agreed to.

Mr Ingram — On a point of order, President, I would like to have my dissent recorded in relation to the process of filling casual vacancies.

The PRESIDENT — It is recorded.

The rules having been adopted, I now invite proposals from members for a person to occupy the vacant seat in the Legislative Council.

Mr BRUMBY (Premier) — I propose:

That Ms Jennifer Huppert be chosen to occupy the vacant seat in the Legislative Council.

She is willing to accept the appointment, if chosen. In order to satisfy the joint sitting as to the requirements of section 27(4) of the Constitution Act 1975, I also advise the house that the nominee is the selection of the Australian Labor Party, the party previously represented in the Legislative Council by Mr Thornley.

Mr BAILLIEU (Leader of the Opposition) — I second the proposal.

The PRESIDENT — Are there any further proposals?

As there are no further nominations, I declare that nominations are closed.

Motion agreed to.

The PRESIDENT — I declare that Ms Jennifer Huppert has been chosen to occupy the vacant seat in the Legislative Council. I will advise the Governor accordingly.

I now declare the joint sitting closed.

Proceedings terminated 6.22 p.m.