



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BUSINESS

Days and Hours of Meeting

SPEECH

Tuesday, 4 February 2003

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Tuesday, 4 February 2003
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Questioner
Speaker Abbott, Tony, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Leader of the House) (8.00 pm)—On indulgence, I inform the House that today the government decided to accept the recommendation of the Procedure Committee relating to sitting hours. For the information of members who may not be familiar with that recommendation, it is that the House should rise at 9.30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday with an agreement not to divide between 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. on those nights, start half an hour earlier on Wednesday and Thursday and conclude at five o'clock on Thursday evening. These are more civilised hours and they will help members of parliament to better discharge their duties. The government intends to seek to amend the House's standing orders to reflect these changes later this week so that the changes can become operational as of next week.