

Parliament to review Standing Orders

THE CHAIRMAN OF Parliament's Standing Orders Review Committee, MP Bob Loughman yesterday revealed that for the first time in 27 years Parliament will undertake a comprehensive review of its Standing Orders, the rules of procedures that guide the conduct of Parliament.

MP Loughman and his Committee will lead a three day Parliamentary Workshop that will examine each of the 55 rules that govern the Parliament.

This will be a further step in the process, initiated by the new Parliament, of making the Parliament more democratic, more responsive in its

role of representing the people.

This review follows the successful Induction Program conducted last year for new members and the more recent workshop on the operation of Parliamentary Committees.

Standing Orders cover not only the rules of debate but the many administrative procedures which are the basis of the Parliament's accountability, including the Parliament's role under the Constitution and the Leadership Code, the separation of powers and parliamentary privilege.

"We are indeed fortunate to once again have the assist-

ance of the Centre for Democratic Institutions who have brought in a team of experts to assist us. It is a pleasure to welcome back Mr Quinton Clements, Deputy Director of the Centre and the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, a veteran of 30 years parliamentary experience and for 7 years Speaker of the New South Wales Parliament."

The Standing Orders Review Committee met yesterday to prepare itself for the workshop which commences today.

Speaker of Parliament George Wells, has issued an invitation to all Members of Parliament to attend the Work-

shop.

"It is our aim to ensure that members are conversant with the rules and procedures of Parliament. Through participating in the review process we hope they will acquire a sense of ownership over the rules that guide the conduct and behaviour of Parliament," The Speaker said.

When asked what would happen after the Workshop the Clerk, Mr Lino Saksak said, "The Standing Orders Review Committee will meet after the Workshop to discuss the ideas that have risen and the changes that need to be made. The rules will then be amended and the amend-



MP Bob Loughman

ments put forward for the Committee and ultimately further deliberation of the approval of Parliament".